

# THE TIMES

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IN THE FREE 100-PAGE GLOSSY MAGAZINE

**FREE GUIDE TO ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE**

**WEEKEND**

Straw seeks jail for spreading Aids

## Victims to be spared rape questioning

By RICHARD FORD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MEN accused of rape are to be barred from cross-examining their victims under measures promised by Jack Straw yesterday to overhaul the way serious sexual offences are dealt with in the courts.

The Home Secretary also intends to introduce a law so that people who deliberately give their partners Aids could face life imprisonment.

Mr Straw said that the changes would come in a criminal justice Bill to be introduced in the next session of Parliament and in a separate Bill to overhaul the ancient catch-all assault laws. That would make the intentional transmission of a disease — such as Aids — to cause serious injury an offence punishable by up to life in jail.

The moves are among a number of planned measures outlined by Mr Straw during an interview with *The Times* yesterday. Others include action to stop lawyers conducting prurient cross-examinations in sex cases, measures to protect vulnerable witnesses and an overhaul of the way youth courts deal with first offenders who plead guilty.

Mr Straw also promised new laws to tackle kerb crawling and a crackdown on corrupt police officers. He



Straw: theatre of court "gets in the way"

promised action to stop them escaping disciplinary hearings by taking early retirement on grounds of ill health; reform of procedures so that officers involved in crime can be dismissed instantly; and a reduction in the level of proof required at disciplinary hearings.

Mr Straw's move to protect rape victims when their cases come to trial comes after a series of recent cases in which rapists conducted their own defence, which allowed them to subject their victims to detailed and intimate cross-examination about the attack.

One case that caused particular disgust was that of Balston Edwards, who spent six days questioning Julia Mason during his trial at the

Old Bailey. He wore the same jeans and jumper as he did during a 16-hour attack at her south London home and she said afterwards: "He was reliving the rape. No other woman should go through this again."

Yesterday Mr Straw said: "I, like everyone else, have been disturbed about a system which allows rape victims to face lengthy cross-examination by their alleged attackers. I am determined we will stop putting victims through this traumatic experience." He is also to restrict barristers from conducting lengthy cross-examinations of victims about their sexual history.

The Home Secretary will receive a report within the next month on how the criminal justice system deals with allegations of rape and serious sexual attacks. The police, Crown Prosecution Service and judiciary have been reviewing the system in the light of figures showing that while more women are being raped, fewer men are being tried or convicted. They have been considering whether witnesses in sex cases should be protected by a screen and whether victims should give evidence by video link.

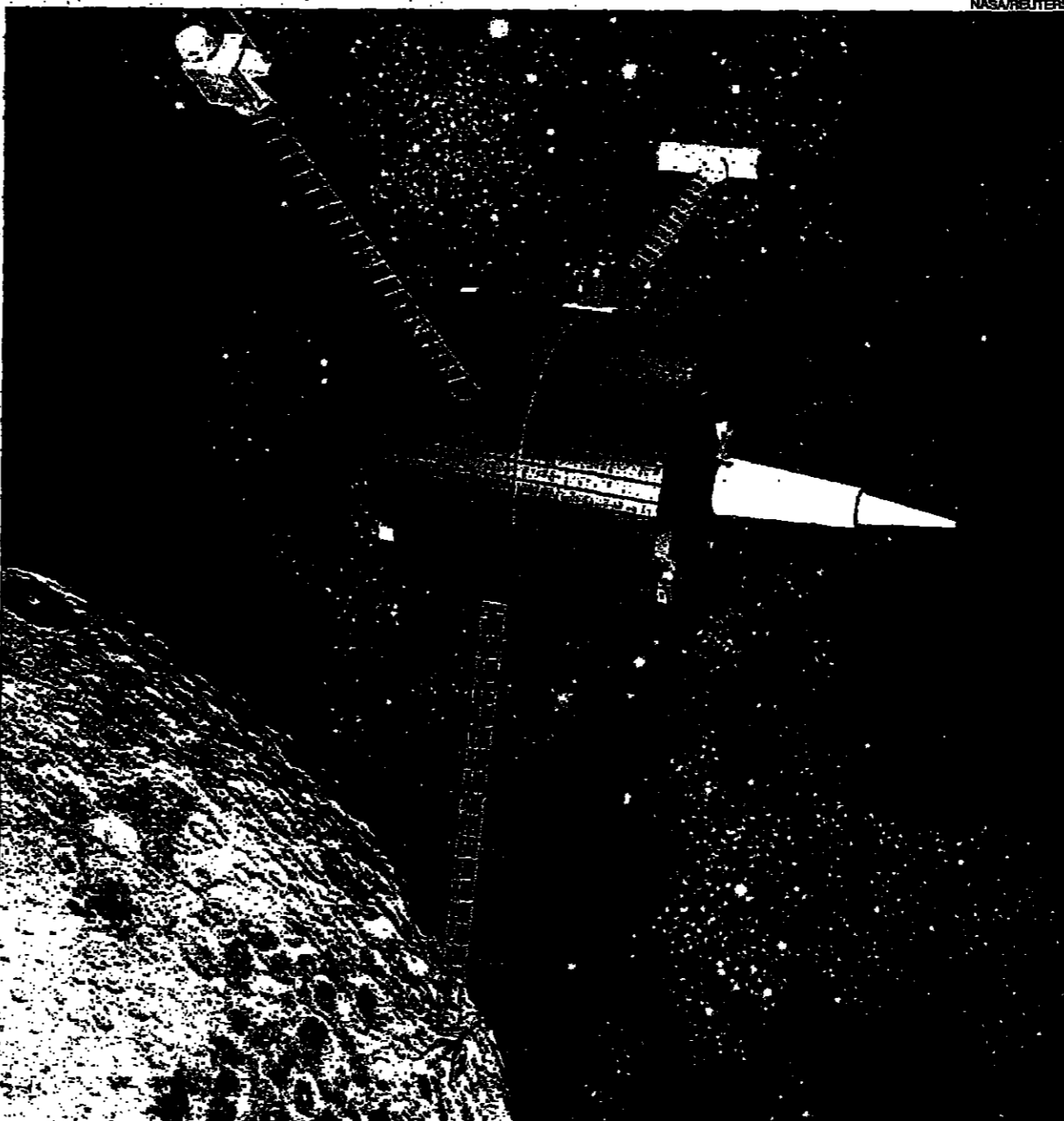
Under the Criminal Procedure Act 1985, defendants have the right to call witnesses and to address the jury. Judges cannot force legal representation on the accused, but must guide them on points of law. The Criminal Justice Act 1991, withdrew the right of suspects conducting their own defence to cross-examine their alleged victims if they were children.

Mr Straw is also to give the police new powers to deal with kerb crawling, making it an arrestable offence so that offenders could be taken back to a police station and charged. At present they can only be posted a summons to appear in court and in most cases they receive only a warning or a small fine. To get a conviction police have to show that an offender has been a persistent nuisance which is often difficult to prove.

Proceedings in the youth courts are also to be reformed as part of the Bill. First offenders who admit their guilt will be dealt with by a system similar to the Scottish children's panels, in which the defendant, parent, teacher and social worker sit around a table to identify the youngster's problems and draw up an action plan to deal with his or her behaviour.

Mr Straw said: "I want to move to a much more inquisitorial system based upon principles of restorative justice, rather than the adversarial system, getting away from the theatre of the court which so much gets in the way at the moment."

Straw interview, page 15



A Nasa impression of the Lunar Prospector orbiting the Moon. The satellite detected at least 11 million tons of water

## Probe finds water on the Moon

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

AN American spacecraft has discovered water on the Moon, scientists announced yesterday.

The water is scattered in small pockets over a large area around the north and south poles. It is found in craters, where deep shadow has protected it from direct exposure to the Sun.

The satellite, *Lunar Prospector*, was launched in January and went into orbit around the Moon. The first results from its instruments were announced at a press conference at Nasa's Ames Research Centre in Moffett Field, California.

The north pole appears to have about twice as much water as the south, the results show. In total, there appear to be between 11 million and 330 million tons of water spread over the two poles.

If it could be exploited — a big if, as it appears to be rather thinly dispersed — 33 million tons of water, towards the lower end of the estimates, would support 1,000 two-person households for over a century, without recycling. To lift the equivalent amount of water into Earth orbit would cost at least \$60 trillion (£36.5 trillion), not counting any further costs in getting it to the Moon.

The water could also be used as a source of oxygen for breathing, and to make both oxygen and hydrogen to use as a rocket fuel. It would enormously enhance the prospect that the Moon could be

colonised, or used as a base for further space exploration.

The presence of water also hints at the remote possibility of simple forms of life. Water is essential to life without it, none can exist. With it, the possibility exists of some simple life forms such as bacteria, possibly buried beneath the lunar surface.

The water has been found using a neutron spectrometer which detects neutrons bouncing from the lunar surface as a result of cosmic ray bombardment. The neutrons carry the signal of hydrogen, which can be used as a signature for the presence of water.

"Our data are consistent with the presence of water ice in very low concentrations across a significant number of craters," said Dr William Feldman, a spectrometer specialist from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The estimate is that the ice is mixed with the rocky

soil, at a ratio of only 0.3 to one per cent. This would mean that it would have to be "mined" from the soil, rather than simply collected like ice.

At the north pole, the ice is found over an area of 18,000 square miles, while at the south pole it is dispersed across about 7,200 square miles. The most likely source of the water is comets, which are "dirty snowballs" containing a lot of ice. Over billions of years, huge amounts of water could have reached the Moon through cometary impacts, but the bulk has disappeared.

Dr Jim Arnold of the University of California at San Diego has estimated that the maximum amount that could conceivably be present on the Moon as a result of impacts over the past two billion years would be between 11 billion and 110 billion tons. That assumes that the water lies in the top two metres of soil.

The *Lunar Prospector* neutron spectrometer signal can penetrate only about half a metre, so there could be considerably more water present than it has found — perhaps four times as much. But Dr Feldman and Dr Alan Binder of the Lunar Research Institute in Gilroy, California, caution that their estimates could be wrong by a factor of ten in either direction.

Dr Wesley Huntress, Nasa's Associate Administrator for Space Science, said that the results were primarily of scientific interest, and would cast light on the rate of cometary impacts in the history of the solar system.

"A cost-effective method to mine the water crystals from within this large volume of soil would have to be developed if it were to become a real resource for drinking water or as the basic components of rocket fuel to support any future human explorers."

Letters, page 27

## Reluctant Masons hand over names to MPs

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S Freemasons last night avoided a confrontation with MPs and escaped a charge of contempt of Parliament by handing over the names of 17 members who could have been involved in a series of controversial police investigations.

The United Grand Lodge of England waived until the last possible moment before deciding to give the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee the names they wanted. The lodge had been given 14 days by the committee to release the names or risk being summoned to the House of Commons to explain their actions and — in theory — even imprisoned.

Yesterday Gavin Purser, the president of the Grand Lodge's board of general purposes, went to the Commons and handed the names over to Chris Mullin, the committee chairman.

The committee asked the Masons last summer to identify their members from a list of 160 officers involved in cases that included the John Stalker affair, the investigation into the Birmingham pub bombings and the scandals surrounding the West Midlands serious crime squad. The Masons refused and two weeks ago the committee issued a formal order.

Commander Michael Higham, the lodge's Grand Secretary, said in a statement that the Masons were complying under protest. He said: "As a law-abiding body, the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge has complied with the order."

## Anti-hunt lobby's hopes are dashed

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND RICHARD FORD

JACK STRAW rebuffed the hopes of the anti-hunting lobby last night by stating that the Government should not push through a law banning the pursuit.

Many Labour MPs had assumed that the Government would eventually bring forward legislation after the certain failure of Michael Foster's anti-hunting Bill, which returns to the Commons today after winning massive parliamentary support last November. But Mr Straw said, he could not see that happening.

"We do not have a mandate for it, for a kick-off," he said.

Asked whether he ever saw a role for the Government in getting an anti-hunting Bill through, he replied: "No. Of course I cannot say what will happen in 50 years. But you ask me 'What is my opinion, Jack Straw?' The answer is I do not see a role for government. This has always been treated by the Labour Party as a private members' measure."

Mr Straw has always been sceptical about banning hunting, and if his line is taken by the Cabinet, the sport would almost certainly survive.

There have been suggestions that campaigners will try to attach an amendment to ban hunting to Mr Straw's criminal justice Bill in the next session — although he is expected to try to ensure the bill is framed so tightly that it will be impossible to do so.

Asked about that possibility he said: "The appropriate way to deal with fox hunting is through private members' legislation. I am well aware there are strong opinions on this issue, but it is not uppermost in the minds of the majority of the population. What they want are decent schools, a decent health service, and to be able to walk down their streets safely."

## Arrivederci Francesco, benvenuto Kevin

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN parents are deserting traditional first names drawn from history and the Bible in favour of names from the worlds of pop music, the cinema and fashion.

In the first two months of 1998, the top name for boys born in Rome was Andrea, and for girls, Giulia. But not far behind are Kevin and Brandon, Naomi and Sharon.

The Vatican might draw comfort from the thought that parents have in mind St Kevin, the seventh-century abbot of Glendalough in Co Wicklow

who, among other feats, is said to have died at the age of 120. But alas, a survey in the Rome daily newspaper *La Repubblica* yesterday proved beyond doubt that the Kevin in question is Kevin Costner, star of *Dances With Wolves* and *Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves* (shown once again on Italian television only this week).

Similarly Brandon is favoured not because of St Brandon (or Brendon) the Navigator, the sixth-century seafaring abbot from Kerry, but because of Brandon Lee, the film actor, best known in Italy for *The Raven*.

A runner-up in the male baptism

stakes is Dylan, partly because of the name of Bob Dylan (who last year sang for the Pope at a concert in Bologna) but mainly because of a hugely popular and unashamedly trashy Italian comic strip series called (for no apparent reason) *Dylan Dog*.

Among girls, the emerging 1998 favourites, edging aside Francesca and Maria, are Celine, after Celine Dion, who has just appeared at the San Remo song festival; and Naomi, after Naomi Campbell, the model.

There are also a growing number of Sharon, in tribute to Sharon Stone, the actress, who is a frequent visitor to

Italy and who favours dresses by Valentino.

"Let us hope all these little Kevins and Sharons grow up tall, blond and good looking, and not small and swarthy in the Mediterranean manner, otherwise the parents will have some explaining to do to their offspring," *La Repubblica* comments.

Thanks to the cinema Italians seem to have little difficulty pronouncing Sharon, Kevin or Brandon, placing the stress on the first syllable, but drawing it out more languidly than in America or Britain — "Shaaron", perhaps, or "Kehvin".



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# Norman Wisdom faces up to Mission Impossible

Christopher Leslie sat two rows back from the Labour Front Bench, wearing one of the suits he has bought to be a Member of Parliament in. At 26, the Shipley MP looks much younger.

In a smart, grey flannel, a blue shirt and spotted tie — his short hair neatly-brushed up in *Mission Impossible* style — young Mr Leslie had folded his arms and, brows furrowed, was listening intently and with an intelligent expression. He looked like a

lower sixth-former who had bunked off school and infiltrated a business conference, waiting to be caught out. On an MP's £43,000 salary, you can buy an awful lot of sweets, Alcopops and All Saints CDs. Leslie is too serious for that.

There are days when you cannot take any of them seriously. Opposite Leslie was John Bercow (C, Buckingham), who is much older — all of 35 — but, slight of build, has an open-faced, boyish, bewildered look, as though he had just walked into a lamp-post.

With a large head, narrow shoulders and loose arms, he reminds me of the young Norman Wisdom.

Both spoke. To each in a moment, but first let us clear up the confusion about Alice Mahon (Lab, Halifax). In her distinctive northern accent, she asked House Leader, Ann Taylor, for a debate "on the appalling fate of Muslim women living under the telly ban". It struck me that some of Mrs Mahon's more fundamentalist constituents may be censoring their wives' tele-



vision viewing. A colleague corrected my note: it was the Taliban, in Afghanistan.

I wish I could as easily resolve the problem about Denis MacShane's bottom. Few who heard the Labour MP's question to industry ministers yesterday will remember what it was about. We could not concentrate. For

while the Rotherham MP was addressing Miss Boothroyd, he placed right hand on his right buttock and left hand on his left, and seemed (from the elbow-motion) to be rubbing both in a gentle circular motion. Kindly Miss Boothroyd pretended to take no notice. From time to time in our lives — and especially

when we are nervous — we all develop embarrassing physical ties of which we may be unaware. It is the duty of a candid friend to point these out to us. I am just glad I have the columns of a national newspaper in which to do so.

Another Dennis (Skinner) rendered a similar service yesterday for poor Paul Tyler (Lib Dem, Cornwall N). He wisely old-world Mr Tyler speaks in the accents of one of those Pathé News newscasters in the 1950s. The trait tends to be aggravated by tension,

and Tyler was in a bite about railway privatisation. "Huge sums of money have been ripped off from taxpayers," he cried, to Ann Taylor.

"Orf! Orf!" squealed MPs in their mature way.

From his seat Mr Skinner (Fab, Bolsover) belted out an exaggerated, mocking drawl: "Ayo, he's ayo civilised!" Let anyone accuse him of giving grief only to the other side, Skinner upset Ann Taylor by calling the PM's pal, Richard Branson, a "goody two-shoes". Young Stephen

Leslie at last managed to catch Miss Boothroyd's eye. We were all so excited for him — getting to speak in the Chamber — that we forgot what he said, but it sounded very sensible. Young Paul Bercow was more controversial, accusing Labour of selling out to unions. "He gets sillier every time he speaks," said junior minister Ian McCartney, who does too. "What a stupid schoolboy remark." Bercow gave a Norman Wisdom grimace, a "goofy school-boy smile."

## Tories were the first to put cool in Britannia

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTEMPT by Labour to link the Government with the latest British designs back-fired yesterday when it emerged that a new building singled out by ministers was commissioned by the Tories.

As part of a new drive to promote British design and architecture around the world, ministers pointed to the new British Embassy building in Berlin, which will open in 2000, as a shining example of "Cool Britannia".

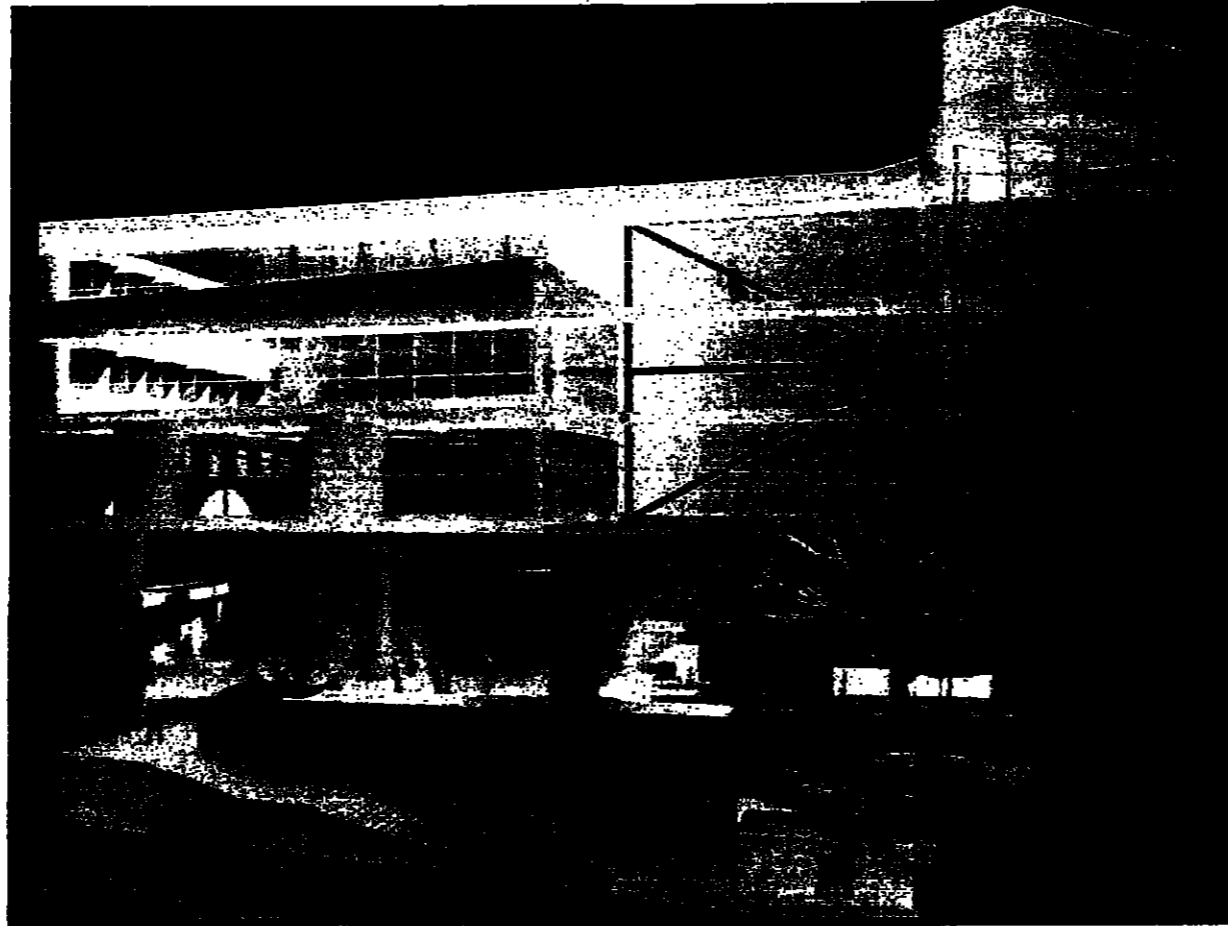
However, the architect who designed the building on the site of the old pre-war embassy said that it was selected by Lord Hurd of Westwell when he was Foreign Secretary in 1995. The opening of the embassy is being promoted by ministers as the key event in the promotion of new British designs.

Tony Blair has appointed a committee, to be called Panel 2000, to promote British design and architecture around the world. The committee is to draw up schemes to tie in with the themes of the Millennium

Dome. The £14 million embassy, which is being built on the site of the old pre-war British embassy in east Berlin, features an atrium where exhibitions will be mounted. A new British Council office is to be housed in an old building in the old pre-war city centre which will be renovated by British architects.

The two new buildings are to be overseen by Panel 2000, which includes senior ministers and luminaries from the world of art and design. The committee, to be launched later this month by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will draw together the work of the Foreign Office, the British Council and the Department for Trade and Industry.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "The idea is to look at ways we can modernise the tools which we use to promote Britain overseas. We want to make the most of the positive image of Britain after the election." Steve Green, of the British Council, said that the Berlin embassy, which will be



The design for the new Berlin embassy was ordered by the Tories. It includes an atrium for exhibitions

in Wilhelm Strasse — the equivalent of Whitehall — and the new British Council office, which will be in Stadt Mitte, would show two contrasting sides of British design. "The British Council wants to renovate an old building to promote British expertise in this area," British Council officials are often housed in the same complex as embassies, but in Berlin they have been deliberately set about a mile apart.

Mr Green said: "The embassy is in the Government area and will normally close at night. But we will be closer to the heart of the city because a lot of our services — in teaching for example — will be offered at night."

The embassy is being designed by Michael Wilford, the London architect. The six-storey structure will be built around two courtyards — the first at the entrance will be

open and the second inside the building will be covered by a glass roof. An English oak, which will be shipped out to Berlin, will have pride of place in the entrance courtyard.

A grand staircase will lead to the inner courtyard on the first floor, which will be called the Winter Garden because the word atrium is considered too downmarket, where exhibitions of new British design will be held. Mr Wilford said:

"The entrance courtyard is very democratic. Everyone, from ambassadors to office workers, will pass through the courtyard. In the Winter Garden staff will be able to look at social and ceremonial events from their offices."

Mr Wilford added: "There will be strong visual contact between the different parts of the embassy."

John Lloyd, page 26

## Teachers jailed for attacking policeman

Two senior teachers were led off to prison yesterday for an unprovoked attack on a policeman who admonished one of them for urinating in the street.

Mark Jones, 28, and Michael Feeley, 32, appeared shocked as they were taken from the dock at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court to spend the next two months in jail. Jones, the head of chemistry, and Feeley, the acting teacher in charge of sociology at Boswells comprehensive school in Chelmsford, had been drinking with friends and were walking home together on the night they attacked PC Matthew Turner, 26, in the Essex town last December 13. Jones and Feeley, both from Chelmsford, had admitted a charge of assault at an earlier hearing.

David Lucas, the magistrates' chairman, jailed both men for four months with two of them suspended. They will also each have to pay £300 compensation to PC Turner, and £47 to replace the officer's broken spectacles.

## Cash for housing error

The parents of a severely disabled boy, who were repeatedly refused suitable housing by their council, should receive one of the largest ever financial compensation payments yet, the Local Government Ombudsman recommended. The couple, whose son has cerebral palsy and needs 24-hour care, should receive £20,000 from Bristol City Council.

## Boys in latest rail attack

An 11-year-old boy suffered a serious sex attack and two younger friends were indecently assaulted by a man they met at Lewes station, East Sussex, British Transport Police disclosed last night. In the fourth sex assault on Sussex train users in a month, the 11-year-old and his friends — brothers aged six and eight — were attacked on February 20.

## Permission to woo

A self-confessed romantic who wooed a single mother with a flowers, chocolates and cards was cleared of assaulting her by causing her psychological damage. A judge at Minsall Crown Court, Manchester, ruled that no violence was involved and cleared Robert Dawson, 32, of causing actual bodily harm.

## Benny Hill returns

Long languishing in the dusty BBC archives, such vintage delights as *Benny Hill*, *The Black and White Minstrel Show* and *Miss World* are to be resurrected in a celebration of politically incorrect programming. A documentary, *One Million Years BC*, will put the once-popular shows in context for a new generation of viewers.

## Smart compromise

A lorry driver who insisted on wearing a shirt and tie instead of the company uniform of a T-shirt and body warmer has been given a job in the depot. John Humphries, 62, of Banbury, risked dismissal if he refused to wear the BRS uniform. But he secured a job in the company depot where, away from the public eye, he will be allowed to wear a tie.

## Adams granted second meeting with Blair

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister is to grant Gerry Adams's request for another Downing Street meeting. However, he will not receive the Sinn Fein president before his party's 17-day suspension from the Stormont peace talks expires next Monday.

Mr Adams had demanded the meeting before his party decided whether to return to a process it

considered "fundamentally flawed". Unionists said a meeting during the suspension period was unacceptable.

Meanwhile, a fourth man has been arrested in connection with the murders of Damien Trainor and Philip Allen, the Roman Catholic and Protestant friends shot dead by loyalist gunmen in the Co Armagh village of Poyntzpass on Tuesday night.

The killings of two men who had so clearly bridged the sectarian divide

have appalled Northern Ireland, and hundreds of mourners from across the Province are expected to attend their funerals in a huge demonstration of solidarity today.

At Westminster MPs of all parties signed a Commons motion condemning the murders and saluting "these men who demonstrated with their actions how the two communities in Northern Ireland are gradually becoming one".

There was further violence late on

Wednesday night when gunmen fired through the door of a house in Antrim, wounding a 29-year-old woman and her three-year-old daughter in what was probably a sectarian attack.

The Government's response to the Poyntzpass killings has been to insist that a settlement is close and urge all parties to redouble their efforts. Government officials pointed to the results of a new BBC poll, the largest ever undertaken in Northern Ire-

land. This recorded deep pessimism about the chances of a settlement by May, but a surprising pragmatism in both communities.

A remarkable 76 per cent of nationalists, including just over half Sinn Fein's supporters, said they would be prepared to accept a settlement that fell short of a united Ireland. Some 54 per cent of Ulster Unionist Party members thought their party should enter face-to-face negotiations with Sinn Fein.

## Formula One prepares to ban tobacco adverts

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

TOBACCO advertising could be banned from Formula One in four years if motor racing's ruling body is convinced by Government evidence on links between smoking and cigarette advertising in sport.

The decision is a remarkable U-turn for a sport that only last year went directly to Tony Blair to demand exemption from bans on tobacco sponsorship to save deals worth an estimated £200 million a year to Formula One.

But the Prime Minister is understood to have kept up the pressure on the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), Formula One's ruling organisation, and held Max Mosley, its president, to a pledge that he would ban money from tobacco companies if medical evidence proved that cigarette sponsorship in sport encouraged smoking.

The Department of Health has now supplied a report to the FIA while the World Health Organisation has also sent information, forcing Mr Mosley's hand. Mr Mosley

caught Formula One, preparing for the Australian Grand Prix here in Melbourne, by surprise yesterday, announcing that a ban could be in place by 2002. He said: "Through all our discussions last year, I always maintained that if a link could be proved between tobacco sponsorship and people taking up smoking, then we would act."

"We now have information from the British Government and several others, and we must consider what they say and whether we need to take action before European rules come into force."

Formula One was given until 2006 by the European Union to end tobacco sponsorship. FIA officials and Bernie Ecclestone, head of the Formula One Constructors' Association, had pleaded that loss of such important sponsorship could threaten jobs in the British motorsport industry. Yesterday Mr Mosley was philosophical that jobs might be lost unless new sponsors prepared to offer such generous budgets could

be found. "If tobacco sponsorship was banned, it could have a severe effect on jobs," he said. "But if the medical evidence is there, then we have to act because we could not be responsible for people meeting an untimely end."

Formula One team leaders were last night digesting Mr Mosley's statement. Most seemed baffled by the announcement and its timing so soon after the FIA's pleadings, which went all the way to Downing Street, a move that heralded a huge political row after it was revealed that Mr Ecclestone had donated £1 million to the Labour Party.

Eddie Jordan, head of Jordan Grand Prix, sponsored by Benson and Hedges, said: "It seems hypocritical that a government can raise revenue from tobacco, which is a legal substance, and yet an industry cannot do the same." When a ban could be announced is unclear because the medical evidence will have to be studied by the FIA's world council and the Formula One teams before any decision.

## Royal Mail refuses Dahl stamp of approval

By DALYA ALBERGIE

THE Post Office surprised the literary world yesterday by excluding Roald Dahl from a "Famous Five" of British children's authors to be celebrated in a set of stamps.

The Royal Mail instead chose C.S. Lewis, creator of the Narnia books, Lewis Carroll, immortalised by *Alice in Wonderland*, E. Nesbit (*The Railway Children*), Mary Norton (*The Borrowers*) and Tolkien (*The Hobbit*).

Stuart Skepethorn, director of the Roald Dahl fan club which is being launched next week, said: "Roald Dahl had 22 bestsellers worldwide. It is absolutely outrageous. Fans all over the world will be shocked." Brian Alderson, a specialist in children's literature, suggested that there might have been reservations because Dahl was far from politically correct.

A Royal Mail spokeswoman said: "Everyone has got their own idea of who should be on them, and we feel we have picked five of the best."

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## Aids drug prices cut in Third World

By PAUL DURKMAN

BRITAIN'S biggest pharmaceuticals company is to slash the price of its Aids drugs in developing countries in a United Nations-sponsored bid to reduce the transmission of HIV to new-born babies.

However, the Glaxo Wellcome drugs will still be too expensive for most of the potential beneficiaries in Africa and Asia, according to a warning from Unaid, the UN agency responsible for co-ordinating

action on HIV and Aids. Ava Colbeck, director of policy, strategy and research at Unaid, said she expected the price cuts — reducing the cost of a four-week course for expectant mothers to around £60 — would only make the treatment available to about 10 or 20 per cent of those infected. She said the price would have to be reduced to £6 if the drugs were to be affordable to all.

Glaxo Wellcome plans to reduce the cost of Retrovir, the oldest Aids treat-

ment, by up to 75 per cent. A spokesman said the drug usually costs around £5 a day in the developed world. It is believed Glaxo Wellcome will still make a profit at the reduced price.

A study in Thailand showed that the risk of infected mothers passing on HIV to their children could be cut by 51 per cent if they took Retrovir during the last three or four weeks of their pregnancy. It is believed that Efavir, a newer Aids drug, may offer similar benefits.

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# Princess crash judge 'livid' over Al Fayed claims

Harrods boss will meet inquiry team over conspiracy theory, report Adam Sage and Daniel McGrory

THE French judge investigating the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was said last night to be "livid and confused" at the behaviour of Mohamed Al Fayed.

The Harrods chief has been asked to tell the official investigation team of any evidence he may have for his weeks of pronouncements about there being a conspiracy behind the deaths of the Princess and his son, Dodi.

Mr Al Fayed will meet Judge Hervé Stéphan in Paris next week. French investigators say that they asked him to come and explain himself. Mr Al Fayed insists that he wrote to the judge offering his help.

A spokesman for Mr Fayed said: "He has not been ordered to testify. He is going of his own free will. Just as the parents of the chauffeur were asked to meet the judge, Mr Fayed is seen as an affected

party. Of course, he has a great many thoughts and theories, and has gathered a lot of information about this terrible event, and I am sure he will want to share those with the judge. A meeting is inevitable and sensible."

The reports from Paris were less charitable in their explanation as to why the pressure has been set for March 12. The judge is said to be livid that Mr Fayed has publicised so many bizarre conspiracy theories claiming the crash was no accident. There is also reported to be upset that Mr Fayed was involved in the interview that Dodi Fayed's bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones, gave to a tabloid newspaper this week.

When Mr Rees-Jones met the French investigators, he had no recollections about the fatal crash in a Paris underpass. The legal team has brought forward a repeat questioning

of Mr Rees-Jones from later this month to today after his recovery.

Mr Al Fayed's decision to employ a team of private detectives to study the crash has further irritated French judicial authorities, who see the move as a ploy designed to increase the pressure on the judge. Asked about Mr Al Fayed's investigations, the judicial spokesman said: "That investigation does not really interest the judge. Mr Al Fayed has his own reasons for saying he believes there was a conspiracy. The judge does not think there is a conspiracy."

Mr Al Fayed recently asked French police to examine a car that he believed could have been linked to the crash, but detectives later said there was no evidence for the claim.

The Harrods chief said in an newspaper interview last month: "I believe in my heart, 99.9 per cent, that it was not an accident. There was a conspiracy and I will not rest until I have established exactly what happened."

The results of the French investigation are not expected until June. Paris detectives quoted in the French press yesterday said there was no reason to discount their initial theory that the driver, Henri Paul, was drunk and lost control of his Mercedes as it entered the underpass.

## Parents angry over godchildren letter

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

SOME of the parents of the godchildren of Diana, Princess of Wales, were said to be annoyed last night after claims that she expressed a wish in writing that they be given a quarter of the value of her chattels.

The disclosure about a letter expressing the Princess's wishes prompted a fresh bout of speculation over why her 17 godchildren received just a small memento from her £21 million estate.

One source confirmed that some parents were "pretty annoyed" and would feel it their duty to pursue matters further to ensure that their children had not lost out.

According to an article in *The Mirror*, the Princess left with her will a letter express-

ing her personal wishes as to the disposal of her chattels. The letter, signed and dated on the same day as her will in June 1993, apparently indicated her wish for her godchildren to receive one quarter of her chattels "excluding jewellery, but including dresses, es, furniture, silver, paintings and other effects. The bulk was to go to her sons."

One quarter of the Princess's chattels could run to £2 million or £3 million in total, bearing in mind that the 79 dresses she sold at auction last year fetched £3.5 million. Under the amended will, the 17 godchildren received items chosen by the executors, such as a decanter, carriage clock, hunting figures and a bird model.

## Academic found dead weighed six stone

By Paul Wilkinson

AN ACADEMIC found dead in his lodgings weighed only six stone, even though he was almost 6ft tall.

Police who discovered the body of Kevin Jenkins, 29, who held three degrees including one from Cambridge, were struck by his emaciation. One woman officer reported: "Bones were protruding from his skin."

An inquest was told that Mr Jenkins had been diagnosed anorexic when he was 13 and there had been concern that he was neglecting himself partly because his funding was limited. He had just begun studying for a geography degree at Leeds University when his body was found last November.

His mother, Lynn, of Ormskirk, said he had been cured of his eating disorder for eight years after he was put on a high-calorie diet when he was 13. She said: "Within a matter months he was better and regained a normal weight."

His father, Allen, told the inquest in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, on Tuesday that his son ate little at university because of cash shortages.

David Hinchliff, the Wakefield coroner, said a pathologist had found no natural disease, but people who were starving for any reason could die suddenly. There could be a combination of malnutrition and hypothermia. He recorded an open verdict.

## Man jailed over Ku Klux Klan letter to Provost

A MAN who styled himself a Scottish knight of the Ku Klux Klan was jailed for three months yesterday for sending racist hate mail to the Lord Provost of Dundee.

Ian Christie, 60, warned the Lord Provost, Mervyn Rolfe, that he was dealing with a "cannibal" two days before a Dundee library was to be renamed the Nelson Mandela Centre. The letter was headed "The Scottish Order of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan" and was illustrated with a hooded klansman.

Sentencing Christie at Dundee Sheriff Court yesterday, Sheriff Kenneth Forbes told him: "What I have considered you guilty of is seeking to promote an attitude of white supremacy in a most sinister and dangerous form."

The letter, which was signed by Major James Arkrow, Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, read: "The opening of the horrible spectacle is night and the black cat creeps through the grave yard as the midnight owl screams. The Klan is awake - thy sleep be disturbed evermore!"

"Thy doom is sealed - get ye hence from the wondrous city whose good name thou has besmirched through thy dallying with the cannibal Mandela."

Sheriff Forbes ruled out the option of probation as Christie's interviews with social workers showed that he had failed to accept that his offence was an unpleasant thing to do. The court was told that a



Christie detected by thumbprint on envelope

psychiatrist at Sunnyside Hospital, where Christie had been treated for a drink problem, said the accused had a phobia about coming into contact with black people.

Michael McGinley, for Christie, said his client had a range of organisational skills, which he had gained through his work with Alcoholics Anonymous. He added that the accused had a heart condition and suffered from angina and depression.

The letter had been posted outside the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow, but Christie left a thumbprint on the back of the letter. Forensic science experts checked the letter with a typewriter found in Christie's home.

They also compared samples of the accused's handwriting with the address.

Christie had earlier been convicted of a breach of the peace.

## Boy of 13 held over sex attack on woman

By Stephen Farrell

A BOY aged 13 will appear in court today, charged with attempting to murder a schoolfriend's mother during an alleged sex attack at knife-point. The teenager was arrested eight hours after the 37-year-old victim was stabbed at her home in Llanvair Discoed, near Chepstow, South Wales.

Current police said the woman, who has two children, was alone in the cottage when she answered the door shortly after 2pm on Wednesday. The suspect allegedly threatened her before forcing her back into the house, where she was sexually attacked and stabbed in the chest and back with a Sin sheath knife.

The attacker then fled towards Newport on his mountain bike, discarding the knife in a field behind the house. A police spokeswoman said the suspect was arrested at midnight at a house eight miles away in Blackwood.

The woman crawled to the telephone and raised the alarm and was last night in a serious but stable condition at Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport. The suspect was questioned at Newport central police station. He will appear before a special youth court at Abergavenny, charged with attempted murder and a serious sexual offence.

Detective Superintendent Keith Dixon, leading the investigation, described the attack as horrific.

## Jodie Foster's silence over father-to-be



Foster expecting her first child in September

THE film star Jodie Foster is pregnant with her first child (Tuzku Varadarajan writes). The 35-year-old actress, the star of films including *Silence of the Lambs*, *Taxi Driver* and *The Accused*, refused to divulge the name of the prospective father.

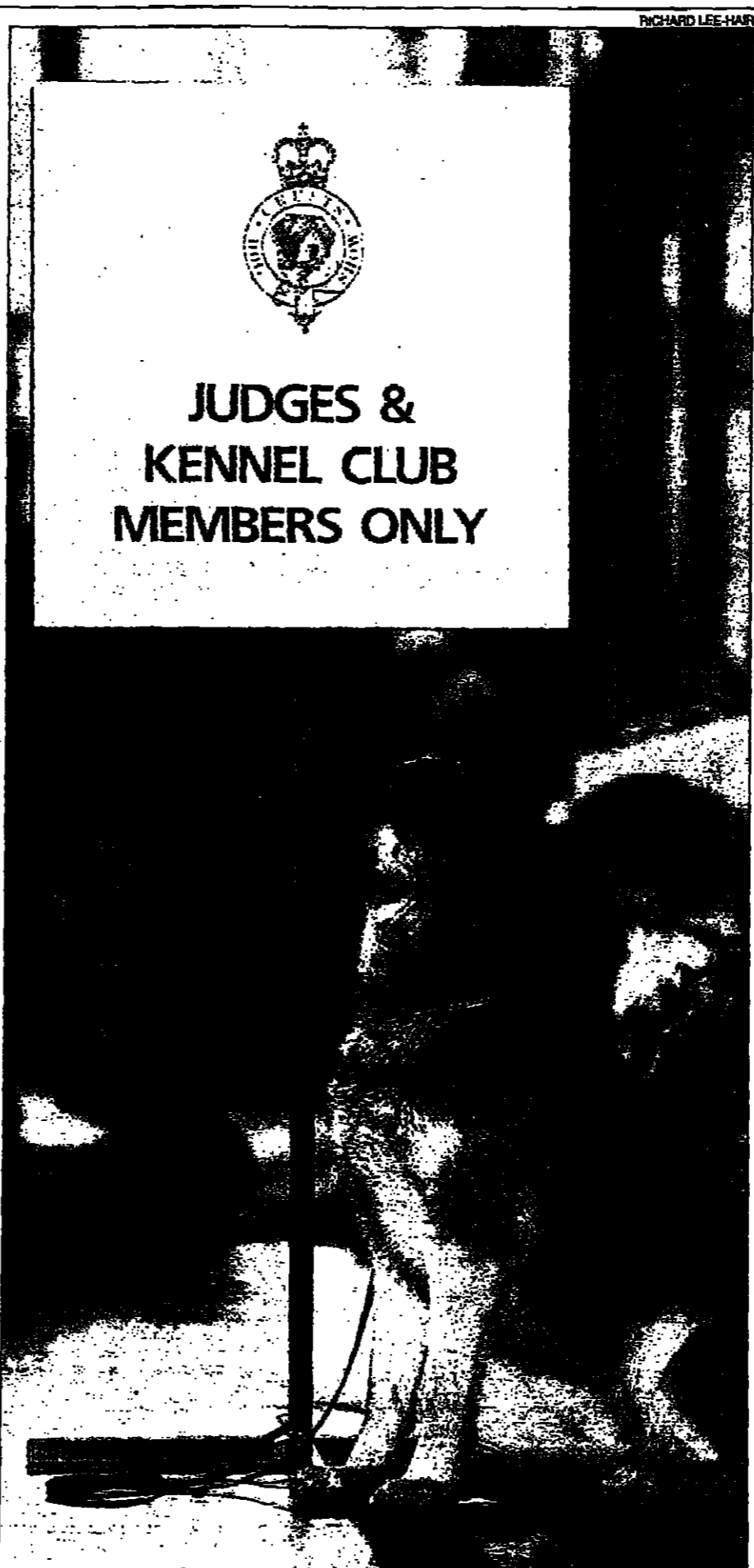
Speaking to the *New York Post*, she said: "Yes, I'm pregnant. I couldn't be happier. But no, I'm not going to discuss the father, the method or anything of that nature."

When asked if she was going to be "one of those single mothers", Foster replied: "Yes, just like I was raised myself. But I do think that every woman deserves to have a blissful first trimester in peace."

Foster's choice of word - trimester - is a fruit of the years she spent at Yale University. Not only is she a two-time Oscar winner, she is also one of the few stars in Hollywood with an Ivy League

education. Ms Foster said that her child was due in September, and she did not yet know the baby's sex. "I don't care. Boy or girl, I'll take whatever comes," she said.

As busy as ever, she is currently producing three movies, *The Baby Dance*, *Walking the Dead*, and a third film scheduled to start production in the autumn - round about the time her child is due.



A German shepherd dog waiting for the judges' inspection at Crufts yesterday

## Dog show judges accused of being biased

By Simon Wright

THE competence of judges at dog shows has been called into question by the Kennel Club. In future, judges could be forced to pass examinations before being allowed to award the crucial certificates a breeder needs to enter an animal in Crufts.

Currently, entitlement to act as a judge at the world's best-known dog show depends solely on the number of smaller, regionally held breed club shows a person has adjudicated at throughout the year. A working party of the Kennel Club has highlighted the potential for such a judge to show bias towards a favourite breed without possessing sufficient knowledge to exhibit impartiality.

Brian Leonard, the Kennel Club's external affairs executive, said that the standard of judging at Crufts had been declining over recent years.

Dogs unfancied by recognised experts had been awarded Best In Breed titles by judges with little pedigree other than an impressive number of regional show adjudications to their name. "In the long run, that could mean that a judge chosen to award the title of Crufts Supreme Champion - the highest honour in world dogdom - has never really proven that they have the overall expertise needed to assess the qualities of any other breed but their particular favourite," he said.

However, Clare Coxall, 67, who has bred and judged poodles for 50 years, said British judges were the best in the world. "Selecting the best judge for the job is not as simple as making them pass an exam," she said. "Experience is the most important factor."

"I'm from the old school. I've been in dogs for 50 years. That has to count for something."

Crufts, organised by the Kennel Club at the NEC, Birmingham, runs until Sunday.

## Ex-patient killed his lover and shot himself

By Helen Johnstone

A WOMAN who lived with a former Broadmoor patient she had met as an official visitor to the top-security hospital was probably killed by him before he shot himself, police told an inquest yesterday.

For ten years, Rita Riddlesworth lived with Paul Beecham, who had been sent to Broadmoor in 1969 after killing his parents and grandparents, keeping the truth about him from her two sons of Lewis, 27 and Scott, 24. Within months of revealing to them the secret, Mrs Riddlesworth, 51, was also dead, the inquest was told. Police believe Beecham hid her body and tried to cover up her disappearance for weeks.

Detective Inspector John Bradley told the inquest at Windsor, Berkshire, how Mrs Riddlesworth's happiness at meeting Beecham ended with her body being found buried at her house in Bracknell, Berkshire.

Mr Bradley said that when Beecham, 55, was released from Broadmoor in 1985 they set up home together and brought up her two sons as their own.

In 1995 and 1996 Mrs Riddlesworth was treated for a nervous breakdown. It was during this period she decided to tell her sons about Beecham's past.

Mr Bradley told the inquest: "The boys asked him if it was correct and he said it was. As far as they were concerned that was an episode in life which had gone past. They counted Beecham as a loving father. They were happy to rely on [their mother's] judgment."

When last October, friends came round, Beecham told them she had gone to stay with friends. Mr Bradley told the inquest: "It is highly likely she was already dead." She died from a blow to the head. Beecham kept up the pretence for two weeks. He then illegally acquired a sawn-off shotgun, and on November 12 his body was found with gunshot wounds to the head.

The coroner, Richard Wilson, recorded verdicts of unlawful killing and suicide.

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# Bicycle girl, 12, freewheeled off cliff in the Alps

A GIRL aged 12 seemed to freeze in panic as her bicycle hurtled towards the edge of a cliff in the French Alps, an inquest heard yesterday. Other members of a British holiday group screamed at her to brake, but she went straight over the edge.

Charlotte Selby, an only child from Silkstead, near Winchester, was with a friend's family on a mountain-bike expedition near the ski resort of Meribel when she clipped the back wheel of another bicycle and found herself freewheeling for 40 yards past the rest of the group to a curve in the path.

She was found unconscious with head injuries about 22ft below. Her helmet had come off. A helicopter took an hour to reach the scene after going to the wrong location. The schoolgirl died of multiple organ failure in hospital ten days later.

Recording a verdict of accidental death at Winchester yesterday, Grahame Short, the Mid-Hampshire Coroner, said that he suspected Charlotte had panicked when she bumped her front wheel and forgot how to control her bike. Only two fingers on each hand were needed to operate the braking system on the bikes.

## Holiday victim seemed to freeze as horrified friends screamed at her to brake, inquest is told

he said: "It does seem to me possible that they would not have been familiar to Charlotte. This could have been a factor in what happened."

Charlotte's mother, Sylvia, and her father, Colin, a sales manager, both attended the inquest. Afterwards, Mr Selby said: "She was a very special girl and is greatly missed by everyone who knew her."

The holiday last August had been organised by Peter Scott, a company director, of Stevenage, near Basingstoke. Charlotte was a friend of his daughter, Jenna, 12. The seven-strong group was led by a professional guide, who had them all how to ride the bicycles. Mr Scott said: "Charlotte had been in the correct position and was riding very

slowly until she hit the back of the other bike. She then put her bottom on the seat and both her feet were off the pedals. She was beginning to freewheel and I called out, 'Charlie, put your brakes on.'"

"There was no response, and the bike went more quickly. As she began to gather speed, I called out more firmly. I was screaming at her. She flew past our guide at the bend. I suspect at that stage she was frozen. She and the bike left the track. There was a microsecond of disbelief from everyone."

The guide radioed for help, but a helicopter went to the wrong place, despite the emergency services being given Charlotte's precise position. The guide, Stephen Robichon, said he had taken the group on the easiest route: "It was not steep at all, it goes down very gently."

"I was at the front of the group going forward very slowly. I heard people screaming, and turned my face and just saw Charlotte pass me very quickly. I threw my bike down, but I couldn't do anything."

"She was sitting down on the saddle and I could see that she wasn't braking. She was not holding the brakes at all."



Wariis Dirie was circumcised at the age of five: "I was strong enough to survive and I want to make a difference"

## Model tells of childhood ordeal

A MODEL born in Somalia told yesterday how she was circumcised at the age of five and promised in marriage to a man aged 60 (Emma Wilkins writes).

Wariis Dirie, 28, who has worked mainly for Revlon, fled her village to avoid the wedding when she was 14 and sought refuge with relatives in Britain. Ms Dirie, who has recently been appointed

as a United Nations special ambassador, broke down in tears as she spoke of her ordeal. "I see myself as an ambassador on behalf of my sisters in Africa," she said at the launch of a joint UN and International Planned Parenthood Federation drive to highlight "female genital mutilation". "I have seen them suffer and

survive and I want to make a difference. I can talk because I have experienced the pain," she added. Ms Dirie was talent-spotted by a photographer and became a model after her arrival in London.

The campaign was also launched by the television presenter Magenta De Vine, who is a United Nations Population Fund Goodwill Ambassador.

## The Full Monty scoops 5 awards

BY DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CRITICS do not always mirror public taste, but yesterday they chose *The Full Monty* as the best British film of 1997 and gave it four other awards.

The accolades from the London Film Critics' Circle are particularly welcome for the makers of the film, which is Britain's most successful yet. This week, they were served a £60 million plagiarism lawsuit by two New Zealanders, who claim that the story of unemployed steelworkers who turn to stripping is rather too close to their 1987 play, *Ladies' Night*.

Last night, however, they were celebrating. Simon Beaufoy was best British screenwriter and Peter Cattaneo, the director, took the best British newcomer award. Robert Carlyle won the best actor category, although his performances in *Carla's Song* and *Face* were also mentioned. Uberto Pasolini was the best British producer.

Dame Judi Dench was the best British actress for *Mrs Brown*, and *LA Confidential* was film of the year and won three other awards.

Special lifetime prizes went to Michael Caine, for outstanding achievement, Martin Scorsese, for directing, Woody Allen, for writing, directing and acting, and Paul Scofield, for acting.

## Officer with MS loses £500,000

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER policeman awarded more than £500,000 after developing multiple sclerosis following an accident was stripped of the damages yesterday.

Nicholas Dingley, 42, launched a test case at the Court of Session in Edinburgh and was awarded £547,250 in 1996 after Lord Dawson held that a whiplash injury he suffered had triggered the onset of the disease.

Yesterday Lord Rodger, Lord President of the Court of Session, overturned the award on appeal, despite expressing "great sympathy" for Mr Dingley, who will be left with a minor injury he sustained while on duty.

Lord Rodger, who heard the appeal with Lord Prosser and Lord Caplan, said in a 106-page judgment: "I am not satisfied that whiplash injury can ever cause the onset of symptomatic MS."

The court was told that Mr Dingley, of Glasgow, was

working as a police constable when the van he was travelling in overturned on the M8 in April 1990 near the Townhead interchange in the city. Mr Dingley suffered no obvious injury apart from a small scalp abrasion, but his neck was sore.

He had shown no symptoms of MS before the accident, but a fortnight later he was beginning to display signs of the disease, which was diagnosed in September 1991. Mr Dingley raised an action against the Chief Constable of Strathclyde, who accepted that the driver of the police van was at fault in the accident, but disputed the level of damages. Mr Dingley had to retire from Strathclyde Police in 1993.

Lord Rodger said: "It is wholly understandable that he should connect the onset of his condition with the accident. It is, however, abundantly plain that his case raises an important issue on which expert medical opinion is split."

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**in metro:**

**MELLOR DRAMA**

From Band of Gold to Playing the Field, Kay Mellor reveals her inspiration



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# Curb on Caesarean births to save costs

**Ian Murray reports on first order from a health authority for doctors to reduce trend towards surgery**

A HEALTH authority has become the first in the country to ask its doctors to carry out fewer births by Caesarean section because they are too expensive.

The operation costs £2,500, five times more than a natural birth, and the Health Department is already looking into reasons why the proportion of cases has trebled in the past 20 years. Nationally, about 16 per cent of babies are now born this way, compared with 5 per cent in the early 1970s.

Wiltshire Health Authority is setting what may become a trend in asking obstetricians at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, to reduce the number of Caesareans they perform. Between April last year and January 1998, 487 of the 2,390 babies born there were delivered this way, an increase of 2 per cent over the previous year.

Harini Narayan, the consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the hospital, said: "While every patient who has a Caesarean is treated on their own merits, our ultimate objective has always been the

safety of mother and baby. We also recognise in Swindon a trend in the increasing number of women who request specifically to have a Caesarean."

According to Peter Saunders, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at University College London Medical School, the danger of litigation is a major reason why the number of Caesarean sections has been rising. He said: "The threat of getting it wrong through a normal delivery, if there are damages of £1 million hanging over you, mean that, if there is the slightest risk, you go for a Caesarean."

He said that hardly any breech deliveries were now carried out, which meant that the skills needed to perform them were disappearing. "There are a number of ju-

niors who may go through their whole careers without doing one."

There was also a tendency for women who had been given one Caesarean for valid medical reasons to be given one automatically for further births, even though this was not necessary.

"There is also a growing pressure from patient choice, with women saying they do not want to go through labour because they are frightened or do not want to run the 15 per cent risk of something minor going wrong that could cause them problems for a year or two after giving birth," he said.

Marian Hall, consultant at the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, said that, although the number of Caesareans was growing, there was no medical reason why this should be

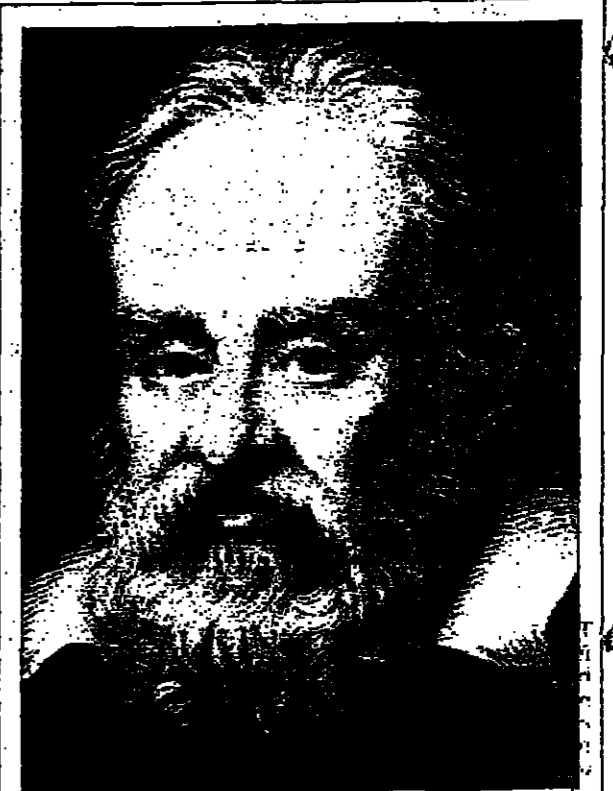
necessary. "Mothers if anything are healthier than they used to be, and there is no logical reason why more of these operations should be performed," she said.

"There is so much emphasis on women's choice, and fear of litigation seems to be behind it, although there is no evidence to suggest that a Caesarean birth is any safer than a normal delivery."

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is asking hospitals to carry out a clinical audit of the operation to find out why they are performed and how the price for them varies. Results of this are being studied by the Health Department.

"We are acutely aware and concerned over the rising figures and are looking carefully at the clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness of these operations," a department spokesman said.

"There is no medical consensus on the optimum rate for Caesareans, which remain a matter of clinical judgement, but this is an area which needs to be looked at very closely."



Visionary: Galileo thought he saw dark seas

## Galileo's vision of watery Moon is proved right

**Apollo 11 found the Moon bone-dry. But a cheap satellite has overturned previous beliefs, writes Nigel Hawkes**

TO GALILEO, the first man to look at the Moon through a telescope, it appeared that the lunar surface was covered with dark water, which he called *maria* - Latin for seas.

More than 360 years later, Apollo 11 landed in the middle of one of them, *Mare Tranquillitatis*, and found it to be as dry as a bone. By 1969, Galileo's idea had long since been dismissed - all that remains of his observations are the place names.

Now it looks as if Galileo was not so wrong after all. The Moon does contain water, the US space agency Nasa said yesterday, frozen within craters close to the lunar poles. And it looks as if there may be enough water to make settlements practicable.

It took one of Nasa's cheap and cheerful satellites, launched in January for a mere £38 million, to overturn generations of certainty and the results of the £15 billion Apollo missions.

The implications are considerable. Assuming the ice can be reached and mined, future Moon colonists could use it for drinking-water, and separate it into oxygen, for breathing, and hydrogen, for fuel. This would mean that lunar visitors could produce their own: fuel for their return

journey, rather than having to carry it all with them.

A similar strategy has already been proposed for manned missions to Mars, which is also believed to have ice at its poles.

The first signs of water were found by the *Clementine* satellite, launched in 1994 by a team left over from President Reagan's Star Wars initiative. In December 1996, the *Clementine* team reported that an unusual radar reflection from near the lunar south pole looked like patches of ice. Like the Earth, the Moon has been continually bombarded by comets, which consist largely of water. The team argued that some would remain in dark corners.

Doubt was immediately cast on the claims by Cornell University astronomers, using the radio telescope at Arecibo in Puerto Rico. "We don't see anything that suggests ice," Professor Donald Campbell of Cornell said.

Nasa's *Lunar Prospector*, assembled from off-the-shelf hardware, was designed to settle the issue. The aim was to discover if there was more hydrogen at the poles than elsewhere. The experiment is more clear-cut than *Clementine's*, and less open to misinterpretation.

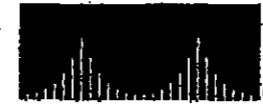


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# Guards to recruit 200 from minorities

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Household Cavalry and five Guards regiments have been given 2½ years to recruit more than 200 black and Asian soldiers so that they reflect Britain's ethnic make-up. A black US Army officer is soon to arrive on detachment to the Household Division to advise on American recruitment methods.

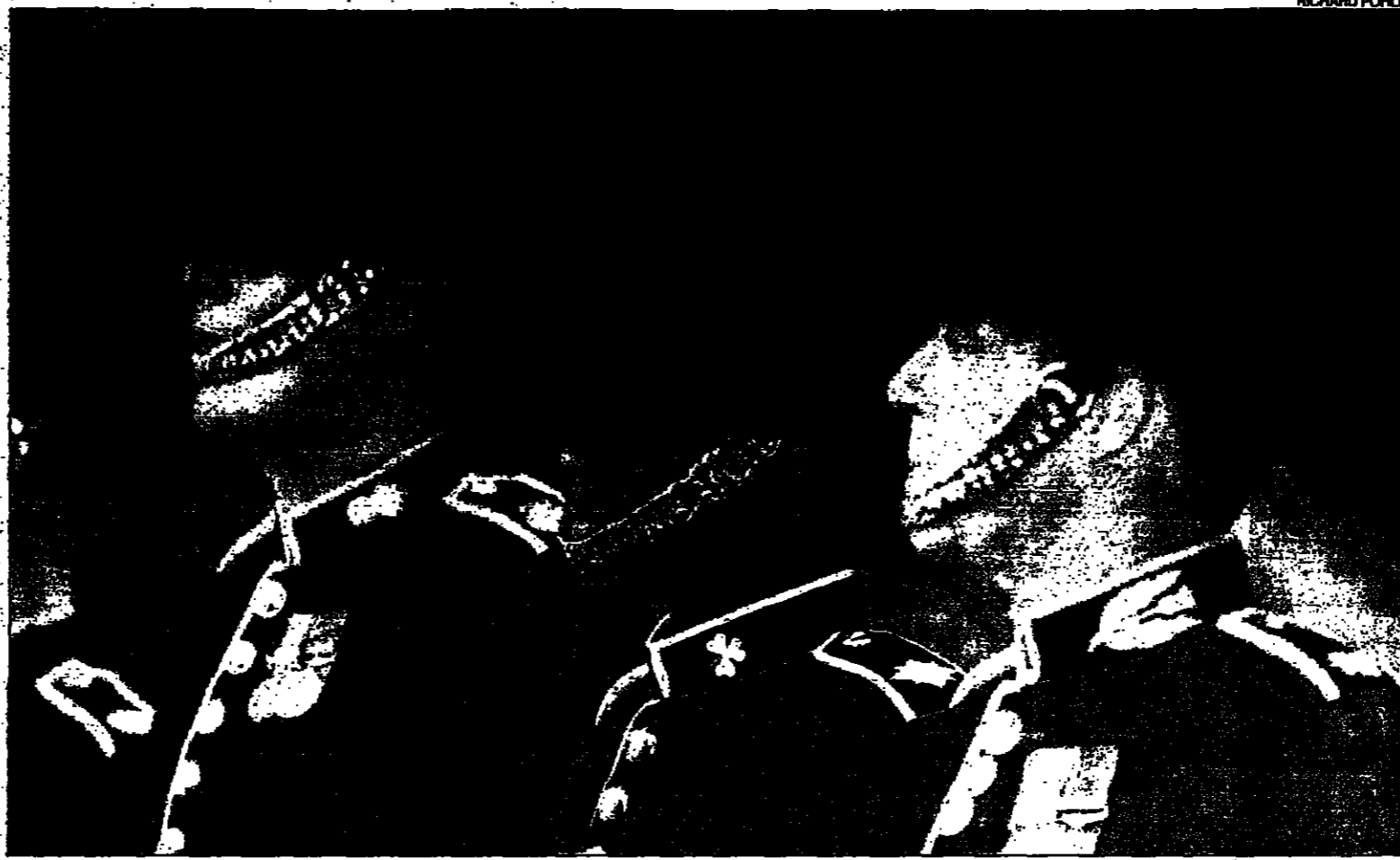
The order for a dramatic increase in the number of

blacks and Asians was made public yesterday by Major General Evelyn Webb-Carter. When he took over as the General Commanding the Household Division in July last year, he discovered that only 0.5 per cent of the strength of the Guards came from ethnic-minority backgrounds.

"This was simply not good enough - it is unacceptable," he said yesterday. He will hold the position of General Commanding for a further 2½ years, and said: "It is my personal crusade to make the Household Division fully representative during my tenure."

Britain's ethnic minorities make up 6 to 7 per cent of the population. Out of a total manpower of 3,500 in the Household Division, there are 22 black and Asian soldiers serving or in training, and one black officer.

The Household Division consists of the two regiments of the Household Cavalry - The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals - and the Grenadier Guards. Cold-



Guardsman Vincent Peters on parade yesterday. He said: "I have enjoyed every minute of being in the Guards. Perceptions are changing"

stream Guards, Welsh Guards, Scots Guards and Irish Guards. In a joint press conference with Bob Purkiss, from the Commission for Racial Equality, General Webb-Carter said he had told his senior officers that the failure to reach out to "highly motivated, young, ethnic-minority men" had been "self-defeating and unprofessional".

In less than a week, the commission is expected to give its latest verdict on whether the Household Cavalry has introduced enough changes to

eradicate allegations of racism. The Household Cavalry was singled out for examination after a black soldier who applied to join The Life Guards was told by an officer that he was unacceptable because of his colour.

Later, the commission and Ministry of Defence agreed an anti-racist action plan to cover the whole of the Army. On March 11, the commission is expected to lift the threat of a non-discrimination notice against the Household Cavalry under the 1976 Race Relations Act.

One more ethnic-minority officer, a captain, is about to join The Life Guards from the Royal Artillery, to bring the number of black or Asian officers in the Household Division to two.

General Webb-Carter said that far more officers from ethnic minorities were needed to provide role models. The American adviser will discuss how the US Army overcame its difficulties in recruiting black and Asian soldiers. In the US Army, 13.7 per cent of officers and 53 per cent of total

manpower are from ethnic minorities.

Mr Purkiss confirmed that he was satisfied with the way General Webb-Carter was now handling the issue. However, he said that the biggest challenge for the Household Division was to get rid of its racist image.

Guardsman Asif Asad, 19, who joined the Scots Guards in September 1996 and whose parents came from Pakistan, said yesterday that he was the first person of Asian origin to join the Scots Guards, and that he had never suffered racial harassment. "I joined the Scots Guards because I wanted to find out what it would be like and to see if there was racism. I wanted to lead the way." He has taken part in Trooping the Colour.

Guardsman Vincent Peters, 21, who is with the Irish Guards and whose grandparents came from Guyana, said: "I've enjoyed every minute of being in the Guards. Two other black guards have just joined, so I think that perceptions are changing."

# Agency aims to exploit defence spin-offs

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is setting up a special agency to ensure that lucrative spin-offs from breakthroughs in defence technology are exploited by British rather than foreign companies.

Liquid crystal display technology, which is used in computers, calculators, mobile phones and watches, was developed in Britain by Ministry of Defence scientists, but ignored by British industry and was eventually exploited by the Japanese.

Yesterday George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, published a Green Paper on his proposal to create a defence diversification organisation that would become part of the MoD's Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (Dera). He also said he wanted to form science parks around the Dera sites so that small high-tech companies could benefit from the research.

Among recent spin-offs, Dera has assisted an education authority in developing a computerised speech training aid to help children with communication skills. It has been modelled on an advanced voice-recognition system fitted to the Eurofighter aircraft.

One scientist researching vibration in helicopters saw a potential for producing flat-panel loudspeakers to hang on walls. The technology has been licensed to a hi-fi manufacturer.



Asif Asad: said he had wanted to lead the way

# 'Illegal' mahogany used to refurbish Navy ships

ROYAL Navy ships are being refurbished with mahogany illegally logged from Brazilian rainforests, environmentalists claimed yesterday.

An undercover investigation by Friends of the Earth alleges that the wood, imported from the Amazon, has been logged on Indian reserves in breach of Brazilian law. The investigators also claim that the logging company that supplies the wood regularly exceeds its quotas, and is helping to push the tree towards extinction.

The claims are likely to embarrass the Government, which has been campaigning for trade restrictions on big leaf mahogany because of its increasingly endangered status in the wild. A move, backed by Britain and America, to have mahogany listed under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species narrowly failed to secure the necessary majority vote at a meeting in

Harare, Zimbabwe, last year. The claims also bring into question the effectiveness of a government drive to ensure that departments buy environmentally sound goods.

Yesterday 500 groups, including some representing the indigenous peoples of the Amazon, sent letters to George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, demanding a halt to the imports.

The findings are the result of a nine-month study by two investigators into the activities of Juary, the Brazilian logging firm. Juary is supplying 7,230 cubic feet of mahogany to Packer Kilmington of Brill, Buckinghamshire,

which won the MoD contract. It amounts to about 60 trees. The investigators found that mahogany was being taken from Indian reserves. They also discovered that, in 1994 and 1995, Juary had exceeded its quota by 6,525 cubic metres - almost two thirds the entire annual export to Britain of some 9,000 cubic metres.

Sarah Tyack, rainforest campaigner at Friends of the Earth, said: "The MoD's mahogany deal shows that government attempts to purchase green goods and services are a shambles." Yesterday the MoD confirmed that it was buying mahogany from Brazil for "maintaining and refurbishing existing mahogany in vessels". The spokesman said the MoD was "looking at alternatives for future ships". He said timber importers were required to sign a certificate saying that the wood had come from a sustainably grown resource.

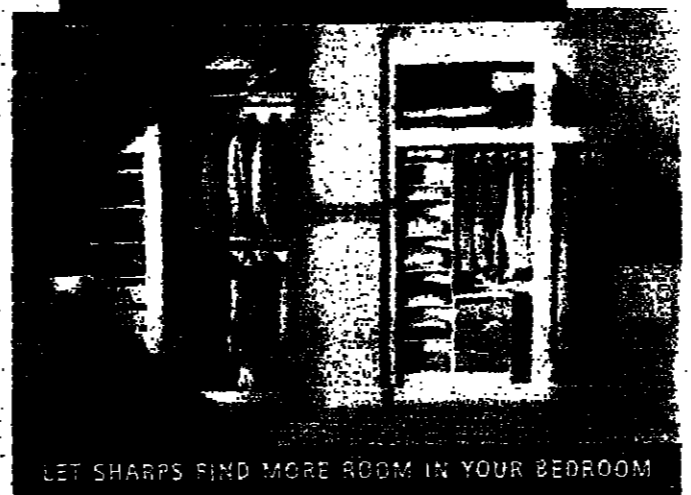


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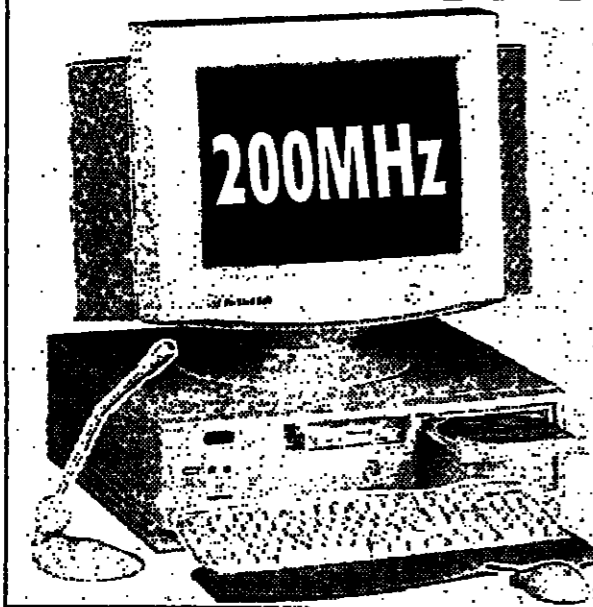
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## Turmoil in Far East 'will cost universities millions'

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITISH universities were warned yesterday that economic turmoil in the Far East will cost them millions of pounds at a time when their budgets are under increasing strain.

As vice-chancellors were notified of another cut in funding for British students, it was disclosed that the number of students leaving the universities' main overseas recruiting ground of Malaysia had halved. A similar slump has been recorded in Indonesia, South Korea and Taiwan.

Many universities have come to rely on fee income from students from South-East Asia as government funding has been squeezed. The region accounts for more than a quarter of the 180,000 overseas students in Britain.

More than 100 universities, colleges and schools were represented at a London seminar yesterday on the impact of the downturn in the region's markets. A British Council briefing said that the next few years were likely to be turbulent and no "magic solutions" were available to solve the recruitment problems.

Last year, 18,000 students came to Britain from Malaysia and 48,000 from South-East Asia as a whole. A separate survey of universities carried out by Hobsons, the educational publisher, estimated the possible loss of fee income at £130 million over the next academic year. Some universities are expecting to lose three quarters of their students from the region. Applications from Malaysia were 30 per cent down at the turn of the year.

Some universities are already offering help for students in financial difficulty. Leicester University, where 10 per cent of the 8,500 full-time students are from overseas, is offering bursaries of up to £1,500 to needy students.

Universities and colleges will receive a 2.7 per cent increase in government grant next year, bringing the total to £3,867 million. Professor Brian Fender, the Higher Education Funding Council for England's chief executive, said that meant a cut in overall funding per student of 1 per cent, after a decline of 35 per cent over the past eight years.

Individual universities will receive between 1.8 per cent and 7.1 per cent more, depending on last year's research rankings and a new method of distributing teaching funds. Oxford and Cambridge colleges will retain their fees for 1998-99, but council officials said they were waiting to hear if new arrangements would be introduced for the next year.

Education, pages 49, 51



## Face-first into pitch black at 70mph, just for the fun of it

TAKING the plunge in a way never experienced before are passengers test-riding the world's first rollercoaster with a vertical drop (Hosanna Bede writes). Passengers on the 160-second Oblivion ride endure a four-second pause dangling face-first over a dark tunnel before dropping 200ft into it at 70mph.

According to its promoters, moving rapidly from light to dark will induce the same sort of disorientation as jet fighter pilots experience. By the end of the ride, passengers' pulse rates will have soared to more than 180 beats per minute — equivalent to a hard workout.

The ride is to open at Alton Towers in Staffordshire a week on Saturday. Passengers will have to be at least 4ft 6in, not pregnant, and have no heart, neck or back problems. Those who decide to give the ride a miss will be able to see their friends hurtle down the ride on giant video screens.

Ari Alton Towers spokeswoman said yesterday: "Oblivion will push the body to the limits of human tolerance and achieve what has never been achieved before — a nightmarishly terrifying face-first vertical drop into darkness."

The ride cost £12 million and was built in Switzerland.

## Pupils to cash in on exam success

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEENAGERS at a leading independent school are hoping to turn their examination skills into cash with a series of GCSE revision guides.

The first of the books, known as A\* guides after the top grades achieved by the Manchester Grammar School boys, go on sale today. The seven sixth-formers have broken into publishing under the aegis of a school Young Enterprise company, known as the Minute Hand Group.

Jordan Mayo, IT managing director of the group, who gained six A\* and three A grades at GCSE, said that he and his friends were dissatisfied with the revision guides on offer before last summer's GCSE examinations and decided they could do better.

The 112-page physics guide is the first to be printed and will be followed within a month by guides for biology, chemistry and mathematics. Bookshops have agreed to sell them.

Jordan, studying chemistry, mathematics and history at A level, said: "Our books are much more friendly, less painful to work from than others we tried. We know a lot of marks are given for technique, and we try to point out where those marks can be achieved."

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# Student hurt as store bomber strikes again

A STUDENT aged 17 suffered serious leg injuries yesterday when a bomb exploded close to a South London supermarket.

The incident is believed to be the 35th attack by the Mardi Gra bomber. It is the first time he has inflicted serious injuries. The device was left close to a Sainsbury's store in Forest Hill, which was the target for an attack last month. The victim had just finished his last day of a short-term contract at Sainsbury's. The company has become the principal target for the devices, after Barclays Bank suffered several attacks.

Yesterday Commander John Grieve, the head of Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch, repeated his warning that the homemade devices have the capacity to kill.

Obsessive and methodical, the Mardi Gra bomber is an urban terrorist for whom the game is now the thing, a

**The picture is growing of Mardi Gra attacker, report Stewart Tendler and Stephen Farrell**

Criminal expert said yesterday, David Canter, an investigative psychologist, believes the attacker bears all the hallmarks of embittered middle-age, rather than the impulsiveness of youth.

Professor Canter, who heads a research unit at the University of Liverpool analysing criminal behaviour, believes the person planting the devices is almost certainly a man with a technical

background or hobby, access to a workshop and some link with West or North London, where the first six attacks were carried out.

Professor Canter said: "The folklore among psychologists is that such people sometimes have physical disabilities or blemishes such as facial marks or cleft palates that mean they have always grown up feeling despised, or that they were not truly valued. Certainly this seems to be an individual whose dealings with the world have always been a bit distorted and has found his way towards taking it out on others by devious means."

Professor Canter, who has been involved in more than 150 police investigations, says the campaign is unusual because of the vagueness of the extortion element. Although the bomber has demanded more than £10 million from Barclays and an



David Canter, who believes the bomber is a middle-aged man with a technical hobby and West London links

undisclosed amount from Sainsbury's, he has sent no detailed instructions on how payments were to be organised and has ignored all attempts by police to make contact.

In a letter sent to a newspaper in April 1996 under the name Mardine Graham, the bomber wrote: "Mardi Gra is the codename of a small group

of Barclays Bank victims who are in the process of reversing the tide of fortune into their favour.

"After a year of activity, more than 25 devices of variable intensity have been deployed. Our earlier devices were designed as frighteners to demonstrate political will, ability to strike and access to a constant supply of explosive

material. We are amazed that a bank or company appears to be able not to care who gets injured and get the police to keep quiet about it."

Professor Canter says the Mardi Gra name and use of a Reservoir Dogs logo suggests someone with a glamorous, Hollywood self-image. However, he points to the unimaginative pseudonym Mardine

Graham and the letter's bad grammar and vague statement of purpose to conclude that the sender is not someone with an academic background. He said: "The letter is not full of swear words or highly emotional, which suggests that the campaign is an intellectual exercise and, in fact, that it is the game that is of interest to him."

## Police are baffled by change of tactics

A TEAM of detectives from the Yard's anti-terrorist and organised crime units, formed to hunt the bomber, are increasingly baffled (Stewart Tendler writes).

Officers were briefed recently that the bomber might be a policeman, because he has evaded capture for so long. However, senior investigators reject that idea and think it more likely he is a man with an obsessive grudge.

The bomber has not made any threats or demands for 18 months and is adapting his tactics to avoid detection. The first six bombs were concealed in videotape cases posted to bank branches in West and North London in December 1994. After that he hid the devices among groceries in plastic shopping bags.

The bomber demanded more than £10 million from Barclays and an undisclosed amount from Sainsbury's. Most of the attacks, which started to increase before Christmas, have been in West and southeast London, with other targets linked to the companies in Essex, Northamptonshire and Kent.

## Nuclear power firm sponsors Scout badge

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

SCOUTS will soon be wearing badges emblazoned with the name of a nuclear fuel company, thanks to a sponsorship deal between the Scout Association and British Nuclear Fuels.

In return for £30,000 over three years, BNFL will have its name incorporated on the Scouts' scientist's badge: 20,000 are awarded and sewn on to sleeves each year. As well as encouraging science among Scouts, the money will be used to recruit Cub Scouts to train Scout leaders and to pay for a community development officer who will reintroduce scouting to inner-city areas of Merseyside.

Tony Juniper, of Friends of the Earth, said: "This is the strategy of a company which finds itself fielding fierce public criticism and turns to a

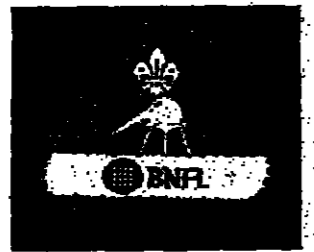
cash-strapped good cause to buy a public relations advantage through relatively small amounts of money. It is cynical PR."

Scouts will be given access to BNFL's scientific and laboratories at Sellafield nuclear power station, to help them with the tasks needed to earn the badge. These include simple experiments and finding out about the weather and the natural world.

John Fogg, for the Scout Association, said the move, which was approved by the association's founder, Lord Baden-Powell, who was interested in technology, would have approved of the deal. The association was delighted that the company wanted to support young people, he said.

"The deal will provide desperately needed funds. The scientist's badge is particularly important because everyone is trying to get more young people involved in science as a career." The association began to let badges out to sponsors five years ago.

BNFL said: "Our involvement not only enables us to offer something to young people but also may encourage some of them to think about science and engineering as a career."



The scientist's badge

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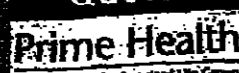
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# Coming home



# Britons asked to put one foot in the grave

Mark Henderson on the launch of a debate about the ageing population

THIRTY million people are to be asked how to prepare Britain for the consequences of its ageing population in a campaign launched yesterday.

The Debate of the Age, which organisers say will be the largest public consultation exercise, aims to ask the public how best the "demographic timebomb", that will see a third of the population reach 60 by 2025, should be tackled.

Without action, the ageing population could be forced to live on tiny state pensions inadequately funded by a smaller workforce. Taxes may have to go up, extensive healthcare rationing may become the norm and there is likely to be an acute shortage of suitable housing.

Tony Blair said at the launch in London: "We are going to have to change and re-shape the way our welfare system works, the way pension provision works — all those range of issues which are associated with people becoming older."

Businessmen, academics and charity leaders will draw up an action plan to present to the Government after two years of consultation. A battlebus known as the "Time Machine" will tour the country and people will be encouraged to join the debate

through schools, work, churches, local authorities and trade unions. Organisers hope to reach 80 per cent of the adult population, as well as attracting 60 per cent to participate in seminars, citizens' juries and discussions on the Internet.

Baron Dahrerdorf, the sociologist, and Howard Davies, the chairman of the Financial Services Authority, will spearhead the campaign. Other public figures involved include Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Sally Greenross, director-general of the charity Age Concern, who said: "Whatever the outcome, no government will be able to ignore it."

The debate is being backed

by the actor Richard Wilson, who plays Victor Meldrew in *One Foot in The Grave*. He said: "It's not just about age or older people, it's about everyone having their say."

The actor Sylvester McCoy, who plays Dr Who, helped to launch the debate to a younger audience and Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, gave his support.

Kate Cutler, a spokesman for Debate of the Age, said: "The need for action is urgent. Without a clear and precise programme to tackle this demographic timebomb we will face serious problems in the 21st century. The debate is about all about preparation — We are saying to people, look

these are the problems, what should we do about it?"

Simon Knighton, the director of the debate, added: "This is about new beginnings. It will bring a new kind of politics. This is an opportunity to exercise people power."

The proportion of the population aged over 60 will rise from 20 per cent in 1997 to 25 per cent in 2010 and 33 per cent in 2025. The number of people aged over 65 will double over the next 30 years.

People are having fewer children later, and those who get married are more likely to divorce. In the past 25 years, the number of first-time marriages has halved and divorces have tripled.

William Hague, the Conservative leader, said: "The Debate of the Age is an opportunity for us to challenge the existing policies on healthcare, pensions, environment, on the way that people work, and we must not be afraid to tackle head-on some of the difficult issues."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "Upon the answer to these questions we will quite literally determine the success or failure of our society in the next century. We need your help. We need your ideas."

Leading article, page 27



Richard Wilson at the campaign launch: "It's about everyone having their say"

# Heart drug can lead to suicide, say researchers

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

PEOPLE using a common drug for treating heart disease are five times more likely to commit suicide than healthy people or those on other heart drugs, researchers say.

Calcium channel blockers, which reduce strain on the heart, are usually prescribed for patients suffering with angina or high blood pressure, especially those whose condition gets worse when they take exercise.

Research in Sweden published today in the *British Medical Journal* has found that slowing down the heart in that way appears to increase the depression that many angina patients already tend to have. The existence of a register showing all prescription drugs purchased from pharmacies in one area in eastern Sweden made it possible to find which of the suicide cases were taking the drugs.

"Calcium channel blockers should be considered as a possible cause of depression and suicide," the report says.

Bayer, one of the principal manufacturers of calcium channel blockers, disputed the report's conclusion. It said that the Swedish research was flawed because it used different data bases and did not include information about changes in treatment by the patients over the five years of the study.

### GERIATRIC BRITAIN

- In 1951 there were 300 people aged over 100; in 2031 there will be 34,000. There were 3.5 million under-fives in 1961 — by 2030 there will be just 1.6 million.
- American research has suggested that wilful and cantankerous pensioners who insist on staying in control of their lives are likely to live longest.
- Research also suggests that intelligent and well-educated people are more resistant to dementia and more likely to live longer.
- In 1991, 21 per cent of the workforce was aged 20-34. By 2001 this will have dropped to 14 per cent.
- Lone parents now head almost 25 per cent of families.
- In 1996, the number of mothers aged 30-35 outnumbered those aged 20-25 for the first time.
- In 1961 there were four people of working age to sustain each pensioner. By 2040 there will be two per pensioner.

# Older women 'need better healthcare'

UP TO £1 billion a year could be saved through better understanding of older women's health needs, according to a report published yesterday.

New research into women's health found that many of the most common health risks faced by the 12 million women over 45 are not being identified, at enormous cost to business and the National Health Service in missed working days and care costs.

Coronary heart disease, which kills more than five times as many post-menopausal women as breast cancer, is frequently missed in its early stages because it is seen as a male disease. Deaths from osteoporosis are consistently underestimated because death certificates record only the final cause of death, and ignore earlier broken bones as the cause of death. Women who suffer unusual broken bones in

Many of the most common health risks for women aged over 45 are missed, writes Mark Henderson

middle age are not usually sent for bone-density screening. Little research is done on health issues affecting women over 45 apart from hormone replacement therapy, and drug trials are often performed on men with the results then generalised to women. There has been almost no medical research on the ways in which heart disease affects older women, the report says.

Researchers for the Pennell Initiative, set up to improve healthcare for women, also discovered that health services for older people were more likely to cover men than women, with

male pensioners much more likely to receive specialist treatment. Many post-menopausal women's health problems were not properly explained by doctors, who often attributed illnesses simply to age.

Women's lower wages and lower pensions also meant that they were more likely to suffer from poverty-related illness. Women over 45 are twice as likely to suffer from depression as men of the same age.

The report urges a reassessment of health spending to increase research and screening for illnesses that affect older women. Dame Rennie Fritchie,

chairwoman of the initiative, said society needed to revise its attitude to women over 45, who made up 20 per cent of the population. "We seem to give women a sell-by date around the menopause. Women seem to become less visible, less important. We are identifying what can be done and by whom to improve women's possibilities for later life."

Angela Schofield, senior fellow at the Health Services Management Unit at the University of Manchester, who co-ordinated the initiative, urged the National Health Service to consider spending more money on preventative medicine to cut costs later.

The initiative, funded by the pharmaceutical company Wyeth, is supported by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who spoke at yesterday's conference in London.

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# Tactful Prince meets old architectural foes

AS DANIEL to the lions' den, the Prince of Wales toured the new British Library yesterday, a building about which he has been particularly uncompromising in the past.

The Prince has used various epithets to describe modernist architecture that offends him, but has reserved some of his sharpest barbs for the library, now finally about to be opened by the Queen after 35 years and £511 million of public money, next to Sir George Gilbert Scott's neo-Gothic extravaganza of St Pancras Station.

The Prince had asked to see the library for himself. Its architect, chairman, chief executive and staff greeted him yesterday with trepidation. In the event, he expressed polite interest, but no resounding royal stamp of approval. His refusal to pass judgment to waiting reporters could have been taken as a loud diplomatic silence.

During an earlier stage of its lengthy construction, the Prince commented: "How can you even tell it's a library? It has no character to suggest it

The Prince of Wales, a critic of the new British Library, has ventured inside. Alan Hamilton reports

is a great public building. Its reading room looks more like an assembly hall for an academy of secret police."

Add that was not all. In his architecture book, *A Vision Of Britain*, the Prince dismissed the library as "a dim collection of brick sheds groping for some symbolic significance. People will think that the Gothic St Pancras is the library, and that this is the new railway station."

At the door to meet the Prince yesterday was Sir Colin St John Smith, the library's architect, who claimed several years ago that the adverse comments of the Prince and others had put him out of business. "How could I not be apprehensive?" Sir Colin said after yesterday's visit. "I am known as the architect of the great British disaster. I even had to close my firm. But the

impression I got from the Prince was a very good one; he was very sympathetic."

Sir Colin, Emeritus Professor of Architecture at Cambridge University, said that the Prince had made his previous adverse comments having seen only an unfinished exterior. "I believe passionately that you have to go into a building, and this was the first time the Prince had been inside," Sir Colin said. "He seemed to be perfectly happy. He very much liked the courtyard when he arrived."

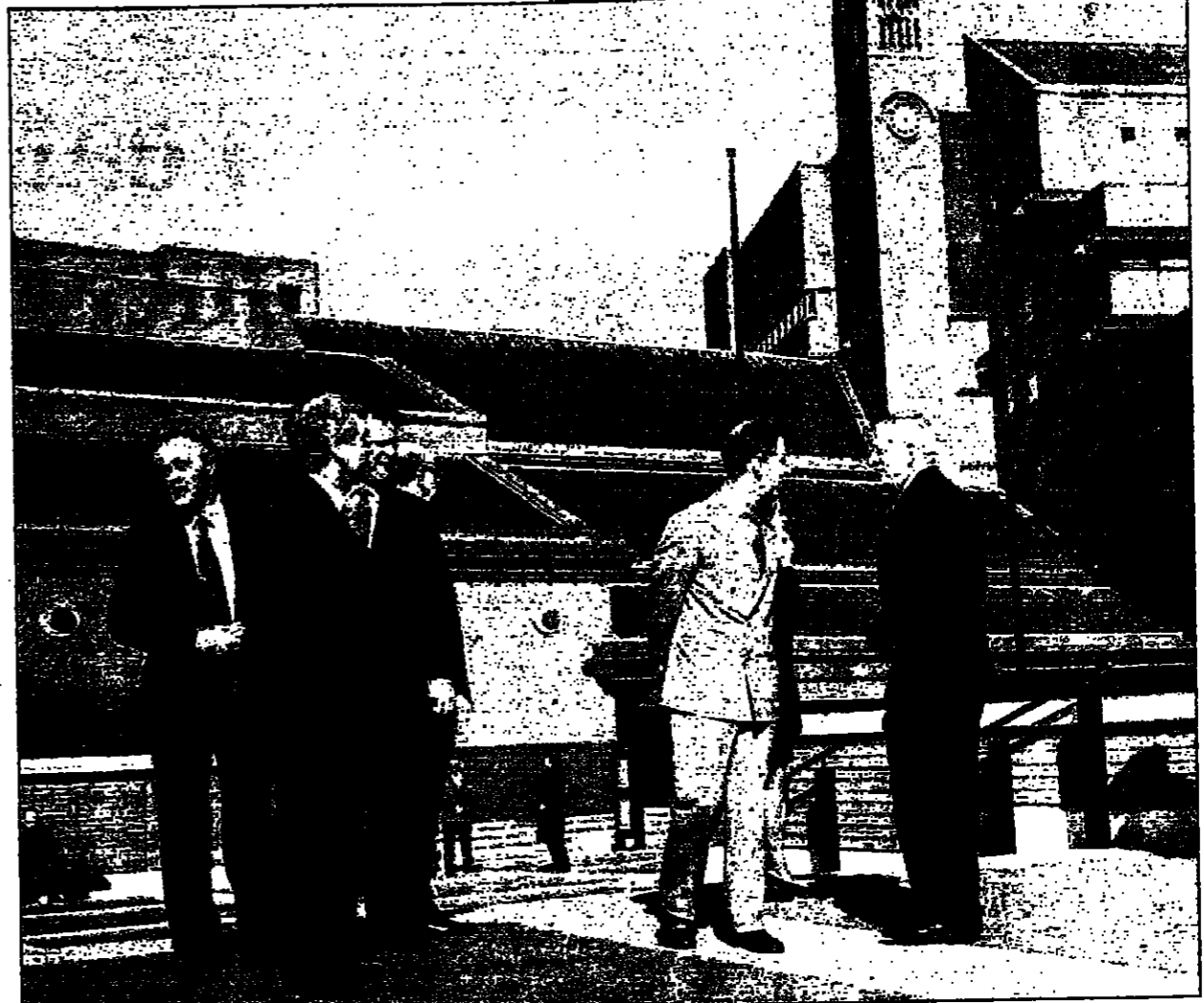
The architect thought that, after an initially hostile reaction, people were perhaps coming to appreciate that the library was a building whose inside dictated its outside. "When Sir Christopher Wren built St Paul's, he was put on half-pay for ten years and

sacked before the end," Sir Colin added.

Brian Lang, chief executive of the British Library, who conducted the Prince on his tour, said that his guest had appeared to like the interior. "He especially liked the humanities reading room, a high room where the play of light is particularly impressive. He appreciated the high quality of craftsmanship throughout the interior."

The Prince was shown the King's Library, the centrepiece of the building which will house George III's collection, donated to the nation by George IV in 1823. He helped to place some of the 65,000 volumes in their six-storey glass bookstack, joking that he would probably put them in the wrong order.

Later, a spokeswoman for the Prince said: "His Royal Highness was delighted to have been asked to see round the library, and was impressed with the quality of the materials and the craftsmanship inside, and the peaceful atmosphere created for users." Faint praise, perhaps.



The Prince of Wales talking with the architect of the British Library, Sir Colin St John Smith, after yesterday's visit

## Pilot tells of sinking feeling at 18,000ft

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A PILOT forced to make an emergency landing at Stornoway told yesterday how the twin engines of a six-seater aircraft failed one after the other over the North Atlantic.

Bob Drews, an American who has logged more than 11,000 hours of flying, was helping his friend Mike Kinsella, who had bought the Beach 58 in Germany, to fly it home to South Carolina. The emergency began when the left engine started to splutter at 18,000ft. As the weather worsened, Mr Drews decided to head for Scotland. Five minutes later, the right engine cut out.

With the left engine operating at only partial power, the aircraft started losing 500ft a minute. "A Luftwaffe aircraft picked up my mayday and relayed it to Scottish controllers," Mr Drews said. Moments later, a coastguard helicopter left Stornoway.

At 10,000ft, ice started to build up on the wings. "I felt that would be the end of it," Mr Drews said. The aircraft was down to 4,000ft when the left engine regained power. The helicopter caught sight of the aircraft. Finally, at 2,000ft, the right engine fired and Mr Drews managed to land.

## Explorers set out to search for Atlantis

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A TEAM of 30 explorers departs for Bolivia on Monday, hoping to follow a trail of clues to find Atlantis.

Led by Colonel John Blashford-Snell, 61, the international expedition will travel 250 miles through lagoons, swamps and canyons along the Desaguadero River from Lake Titicaca to Lake Poopo where, they hope, the ancient city lies buried under neighbouring plains.

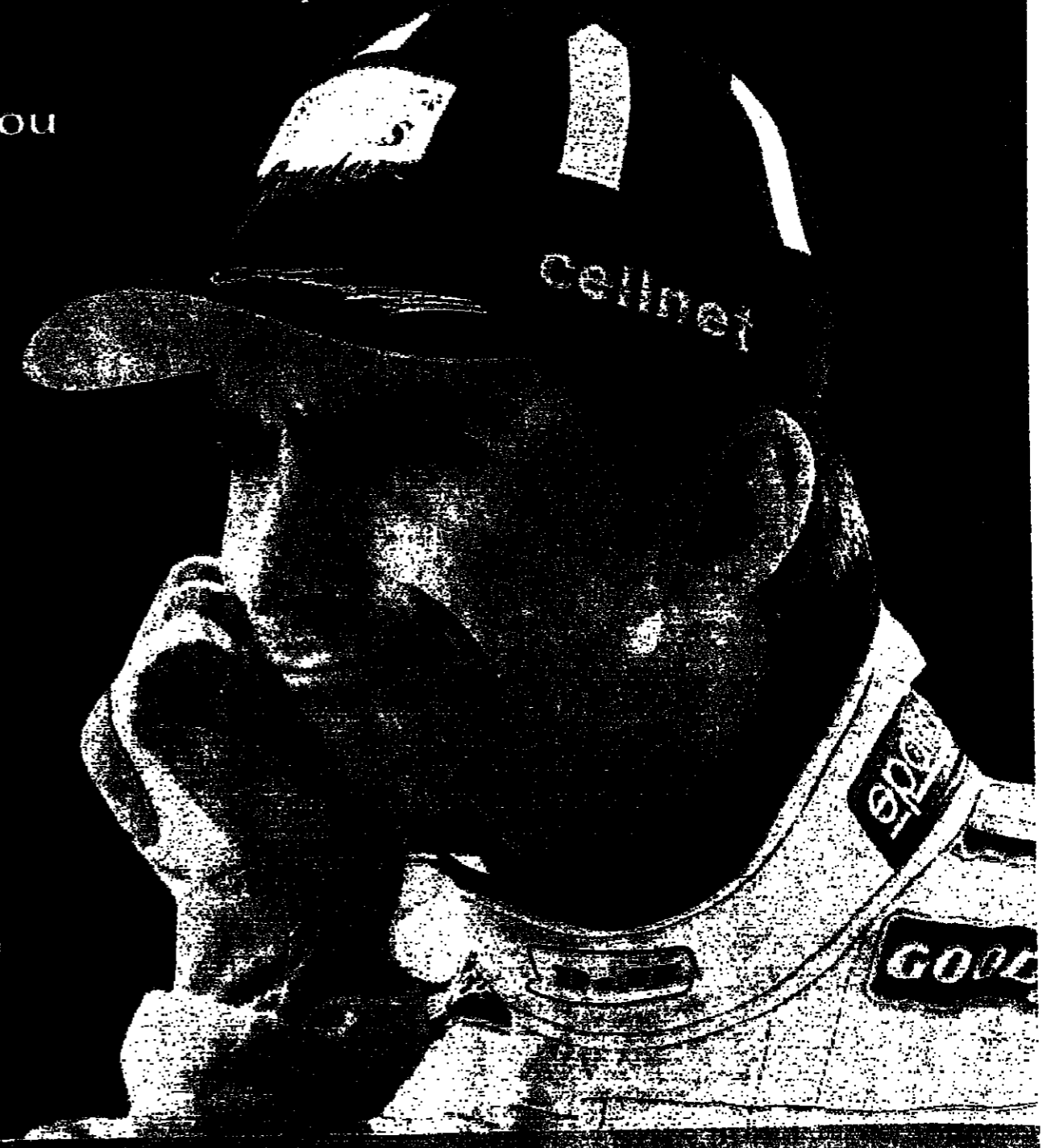
The team, from the Explorers Club, are to make the five-week journey in three traditional dragon-headed reed boats, which they believe were used to navigate the inland waterways of South America for trade. Later, they hope to link the route to the coast and show that the boats may have been used to cross to Africa.

Along the way, they will follow up research by Jim Allen, an amateur archaeologist from Torquay, whose study of satellite and aerial imagery led him to conclude that Atlantis was around Lake Poopo. Colonel Blashford-Snell said that more than 50 features could be linked to Plato's fabled description of the lost city. "We certainly expect to find traces of lost civilisations," he said.

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# Dobson forced to eat his words on red meat

THE Government has been forced into an embarrassing retreat over advice given by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, to reduce consumption of red meat.

The report of his advisory committee on nutrition failed to back advice he gave last September that people eating average amounts of meat — 90 grams a day, equivalent to eight to ten portions a week — "should consider a reduction".

The final version of the report of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy (Coma), does not include this recommendation. It merely suggests that those who eat more than average, and especially those who eat 12 to 14 portions a week (140 grams a day) might benefit from, and should consider, a reduction in intake.

The tenor of the advice reflects a backstairs row between scientists on the committee, reported in *The Times* a month ago. The panel responsible for the report had not been consulted when the full committee, influenced by Phil-

Scientific advisers have pointedly failed to back minister's health warning, reports Nigel Hawkes

ip James, of the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, strengthened its wording. Professor James had convinced Mr Dobson and Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, that the wording favoured by the panel, chaired by Alan Jackson, of Southampton University, was too weak, because they had been pressured by meat lobbyists. Mr Dobson rushed out a press release containing Professor James's words — without checking they were acceptable to Professor Jackson's panel.

They were not. The row caused considerable ill-feeling, has damaged the nutrition committee's reputation, and left Mr Dobson in the awkward position of publicly endorsing advice which has been discredited.

The Health Department said yesterday that Mr Dob-

son had deferred publication of the report "when he learned that the recommendations had not been discussed by all members of Coma and they needed more time to consider its recommendations to ensure scientific accuracy and clarity".

Professor James's motivation in pressing for tougher language was to bring the committee's advice into line with that of the World Cancer Research Fund, which published a report in September with which he was closely involved. He wants to see changes in diet across the population to improve health.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer and chairman of Coma, said yesterday: "Where the most convincing links have been underpinned by science, Coma has given recommendations on how people could reduce their

risk of cancer. Smoking poses the most significant risk of cancer, but evidence suggests that diet could contribute to a third of all cancers.

"Adults who eat more than the average amount of red and processed meat, especially those eating a lot more, might benefit from a reduction. Average and below-average consumers need not change."

The director-general of the Meat and Livestock Commission, Colin Maclean, welcomed the recommendation of a healthy, balanced and varied diet, including red meat. "People should be aware of the importance of red meat in a balanced diet — it contains a significant range of minerals and vitamins."

The report also recommends the maintenance of a healthy body weight; an increase in consumption of fruit and vegetables; avoidance of beta-carotene supplements as a means of protecting against cancer; and caution about taking potentially risky high doses of vitamins and minerals.

Letters, page 27



One of the manuscript pages of the waltz by George Gershwin, below, that could fetch £10,000 at Sotheby's



## Unknown Gershwin for sale

AN UNKNOWN waltz for piano, written by George Gershwin in 1933, is to be sold at auction for an estimated £10,000 (Dalya Albergé writes). Although incomplete, it is likely to excite collectors because Gershwin manuscripts rarely appear on the market.

The composer intended it

for his musical *Pardon my English*, but cut it from the show. The pencilled manuscript bears a scribbled note to his friend, Kay Swift, his copyist, asking her to keep it.

Simon Maguire, of Sotheby's, which will be selling it on March 31, said: "It is typically Gershwin. Being a waltz, though, it's not as schmaltzy as *An American in Paris*, *Rhapsody in Blue* or *Summertime*." Six bars from the waltz were used in *Two Waltzes in C* — published in 1971 by Gershwin's lyricist brother Ira. The manuscript is among musical items being sold by the Hollywood film director George Cosmatos.

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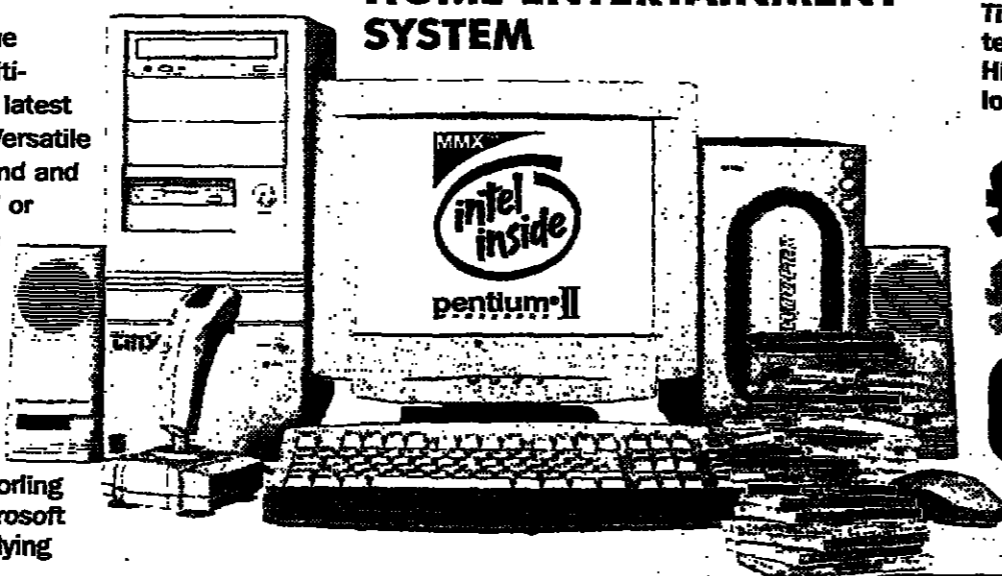
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## Three Graces' beauty dimmed by fracture

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

THE world's most expensive sculpture, Antonio Canova's *Three Graces*, has been permanently disfigured by a hairline fracture, a leading art expert disclosed yesterday.

Duncan McMillan, director of the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh, said the damage degraded the trio of Grecian beauties: "Its whole meaning hinges on its immaculate beauty. If this damage gets exacerbated, then it will devalue the object. It certainly puts it at much greater risk." The "two-inch crack" that appears on the shoulder of the left-hand figure when viewed from the front has occurred in the most vulnerable and exposed area of the £7.6 million sculpture. There is another fracture in the same arm, thought to be caused by an inherent flaw in the marble.

The latest damage may have occurred when the sculpture was transported by lorry and ferry to Madrid for an exhibition last November. It was discovered by marble conservators studying the statue under strong light last year.

The short-term loan to Baron Hans Thyssen-Bornemisza de Kaszon in Spain was the first time the sculpture had left the country since the National Galleries of Scotland and the V&A secured joint ownership in 1994. Allowing the statue to travel to Spain was a way of thanking the baron, who contributed £800,000 to the high-profile campaign to prevent the *Three Graces* being exported to the Getty Museum in California.

Paul Williamson, the senior sculpture conservator at the V&A, said it was possible that the fracture had always exist-

ed, but had not been picked up during earlier examinations. "We will probably have it X-rayed so that we can ascertain whether or not there are any other problems," he said.

However, the damage has caused great embarrassment in Edinburgh. The purchase deal struck between the galleries and the V&A means that the *Three Graces* is scheduled to make the 400-mile journey between Edinburgh and London every seven years, increasing the risk of further damage. It is currently on display in Scotland. The arrangement was criticised at the time by those who insisted that such a delicate object should never be moved.

"Any good museum knows that the last thing you should do with something so fragile is move it," Professor McMillan said. "It was the worst possible object to choose for this kind of deal. To be honest, it would have been much safer in the Getty."



Canova's *Three Graces*: crack on one shoulder

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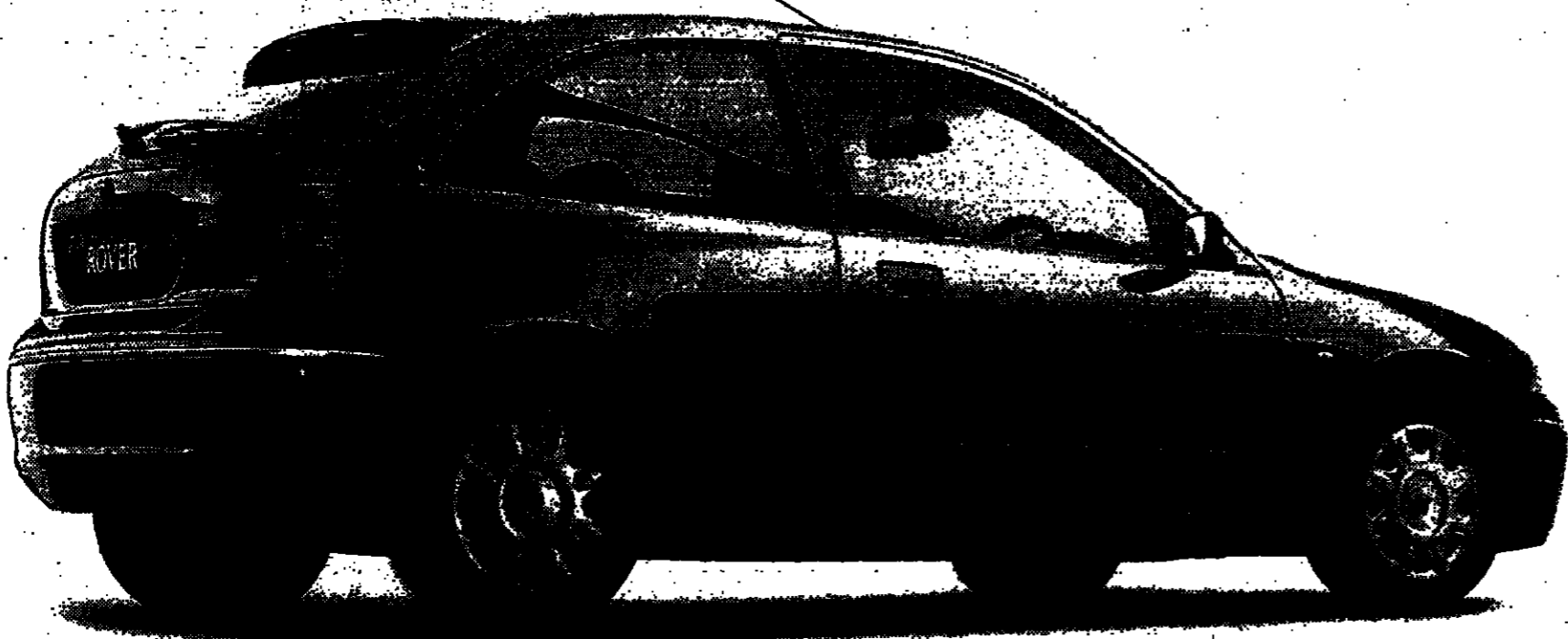
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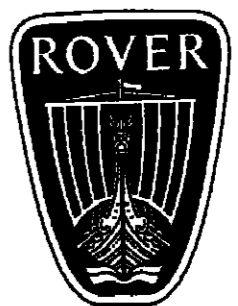
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# Irvine faces a rebuke from MPs

A Commons committee wants Lord Chancellor to account for alleged inaccuracy, reports Andrew Pierce

THE Lord Chancellor may be recalled before a parliamentary committee to answer allegations that he misled MPs over the Government's reforms of the House of Lords.

As Downing Street sought to play down suggestions that the reform process was in trouble, Lord Irvine of Lairg's political difficulties deepened yesterday. He faces a rebuke for telling the Public Administration Committee that there had been no consultation with opposition parties over the biggest constitutional changes this century. Only 24 hours later it emerged that he had sanctioned secret talks between Cabinet ministers and leading Tories.

Lord Richard, Leader of the Lords, and Lord Carter, the Chief Whip, held two meetings with Viscount Cranborne and Lord Strathclyde, their Tory counterparts, last month. The first was held in strict secrecy at Lord Cranborne's London home.

But in evidence to the Public Administration Committee on Wednesday, Lord Irvine dismissed Tory complaints that past governments had sought to broker a cross-party consensus with the comment: "A muckle lot of good it did them."

Rhodri Morgan, the Labour chairman of the committee, said he "shared the concerns" of Tory MPs over the Lord Chancellor's performance. "I am writing to the Lord Chan-



Lord Irvine with Heather Hallett, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, during a visit to a London school yesterday to launch a human rights booklet.

cellor to seek clarification. Whether the Lord Chancellor has misled the committee I cannot say at this stage. I cannot rule out having to recall him."

Andrew Tyrie, the Tory MP for Chichester, who had challenged the Lord Chancellor about the need for cross-party co-operation, said: "It's clear that Lord Irvine was misleading the committee when he said there was no consultation taking place. Clearly, there was."

Mr Morgan added: "I share Andrew Tyrie's recollection of events. I also understand his concerns, which is why I am writing to Lord Irvine to seek clarification. It is not satisfactory if he is telling us one thing when something else is actually happening."

Ministers denied yesterday that the cross-party talks signalled that the Government had weakened its resolve to abolish hereditary peers before an alternative second chamber was in place.

Lord Richard told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*: "The Labour Party is committed to removing the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. Irrespective of whether there is general agreement, consensus on the form of the second stage. We will go ahead and legislate in order to remove the rights of hereditary peers and I sincerely hope it will be done in the next session of Parliament."

But Lord Cranborne made clear that abolition of hereditary peers must not leave in its place an Upper House packed with Labour-appointed life peers. "If they want to get rid of the hereditary peers, which are the last independent element in Parliament, then they must simultaneously substitute something at least as independent," he said.

The Prime Minister's spokesman accused the Tories of trying to stall the process. "The Conservatives are play-

ing games, pretending they are in favour of reform, but they will do what they can to stall — we don't believe they are committed to getting rid of hereditary peers."

He played down the significance of the meetings, which he said were neither substantive discussions nor negotiations. "The Government was not seeking the Opposition's help. There are all manner of informal contacts in the Lords. These initial soundings are part of that. We are serious about our approach to constitutional reforms. Our sense is that they are not. They are playing games."

The spokesman emphasised that a commitment to reform the Lords was an election manifesto commitment, which would be "implemented and carried through", although the timetable had yet to be fixed.

Lord Cranborne said Labour had indicated that it wanted the talks to continue. "They have put forward some substantive ideas already. They have promised more."

## Muckle mention echoes hanging judge of old

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER

LORD IRVINE seems intent not only on restoring his grand apartments but on resurrecting the Scots language. In a fine dialectal flourish before the House of Commons Select Committee, he spiced up a reference to past failures of all-party discussions on reforming the House of Lords by throwing in the word "muckle".

"If I may break into Scots," he told the startled committee members, "muckle good it did them." This is splendid use of a rich tongue, all too rarely heard these days south of the border but familiar to anyone from the North East of Scotland or who has read the novels of Scott and Stevenson and the poetry of Hugh MacDiarmid. It means great or large, as in "she was a muckle stout, [stout] fear-some boddy wife" (from Scott's *Guy Mannering*) or "she couldnae say she was muckle better" (*Old Mortality*) or "the Muckle Toon" (MacDiarmid referring to his home town of Langholm).

What Lord Irvine meant in effect was "a fat lot of good they achieved". But in falling back on Scots he was not just reviving an ancient language, he was picking up on a long tradition of grim 18th century Scottish judges who delivered their views in broad Scots and who gave the language some of its more colourful phrases.

The most famous was Lord Braxfield, known as "the hanging judge". He was used by Robert Louis Stevenson as the model for Lord Hermiton, the fearsome judge in *Weir of Hermiston*. Braxfield seems to have been almost as controversial in his day as Lord Irvine is now — and as impervious to criticism. He outraged Edinburgh society in 1794 when a political reformer on trial for sedition tried to argue that many great men, including Jesus Christ, had been reformers. "Muckle he made o' that," retorted Braxfield, "he was hanged."

Braxfield's most famous comment came after listening to an eloquent plea for clemency from a defendant who faced the death penalty: "Ye're a vera clever chiel, man, but ye wad be made the wail o' a hanging" (You're a clever fellow, but you'll be none the worse of a hanging).

Muckle, derived from Old English (*mucel*) and Old Norse (*múki*), has survived most commonly in the phrase "many a muckle makes a muckle", usually meaning "many a little makes a lot". The problem with this is that "muckle" also means much. Somewhere along the line the meaning of the word has been changed. It is something the MPs may wish to question Lord Irvine on if he is again summoned before them.

## Castle says review excludes pensioner groups

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

BARONESS Castle of Blackburn accused the Government yesterday of excluding pensioners' groups from discussions about future provision.

The former Labour Cabinet minister said that there had been no real consultation of pensioners' campaigners by Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, since Labour was returned to power. "We no longer meet collectively with Harriet Harman and John Denham [the minister handling the pensions review]. We now send in individual pieces of evidence and somebody is going to read that and pick out the bits it likes."

At last year's Labour Party Conference, Lady Castle, who was Social Services Secretary from 1974 until 1976, denounced Ms Harman for failing to restore the link between the state pension and average earnings which was abolished under Margaret Thatcher.

Yesterday's comments came as Lady Castle published the evidence of her own pressure group, which is called Security in Retirement for Everyone, to the Government's pensions review. The group's pamphlet gives warning that, unless the link between pensions and earnings is reinstated, Labour will be endorsing the Conservative's policy of allowing the basic state pension to "wither on the vine".

Lady Castle said that ministers had refused to provide costings for their proposals, which include the establishment of "stakeholder pensions" to provide a second pension for as many people as possible. "I want the facts. I haven't got the facts," she said.

"We are fighting for future generations who know they are being ripped off by personal pensions companies and who are very unhappy about what is happening."

Lady Castle's group also claims that the Government could easily afford to restore the link between the basic state pension and average earnings, citing figures given in a written parliamentary answer by Mr. Derham last week.

A spokesman for Ms Harman said Lady Castle's comments were "a welcome contribution to the pensions review" but insisted that ministers, including the Chancellor, had held regular meetings with pensioners' representatives since the review was set up.

**IN PARLIAMENT**

TODAY in the Commons: *Wild Manxmoor* (Planning) with David Hill, report: *Prison for Violence* (London) Bill, committee; *Short notice on future of Mount Vernon Hospital*, Northwood, The House of Lords is not sitting.

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**The Samaritans**

Peers defeat Government on pharmaceuticals



Jack Straw during his interview yesterday. He called for parents to be given more help and advice

# Parents should be 'chased' into doing a better job, says Straw

*In an interview with Philip Webster and Richard Ford, the Home Secretary, a self-confessed "humbled parent" speaks of his commitment to helping families*

CHILDREN should be taught at school about how to be good parents and parents should be "chased" if they fail to take a proper interest in the education of their sons and daughters, Jack Straw said yesterday.

Parents should be advised informally on the responsible way of bringing up their children from birth, through toddler groups and nursery school, and through the whole education system, he said.

The Home Secretary, the man chosen by Tony Blair to put the family at the centre of the Government's agenda, admitted with a smile that being a parent was a "humbling" experience. In an interview at the Home Office yesterday he recalled to us that in his last big newspaper interview just before Christmas he had said that he approached the subject of parenting "with humility" as the father of two teenagers.

"It was just as well," he said. Within days he was enduring in the most public way possible the nightmare dreaded by all parents. His son William, 17, was caught by a newspaper selling drugs. After Mr Straw was told he took his son to the police station. William was arrested, although charges were not pressed and he was officially cautioned.

The way in which Mr Straw handled his personal setback has both strengthened his political position and raised his (always low) public profile. Mr Blair, showing the high esteem in which he holds his Home Secretary, took him to

Washington on his trip to see President Clinton and let it be known that he regards Mr Straw as a key figure in conveying the Government's "big picture". In most estimations Mr Straw is one of the successes of the Government so far, not quite in the Big Four (Blair, Prescott, Brown and Cook) but if the Big Four became a Big Five he would be a member.

Behind the scenes he has earned a reputation as one of the Cabinet's toughest, with some celebrated confrontations under his belt over Scottish devolution and, with Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, over privacy.

The soft-spoken Mr Straw was in relaxed mood yesterday as he spoke of his plans for keeping up the momentum on crime after the advances made by Labour on law and order under first Mr Blair, then himself.

According to close friends he was fully supportive of William during their ordeal at Christmas and they remain "the best of friends". Family associates say that time and after time William has expressed regret about "landing his dad in it".

So when Mr Straw spoke of the measures being considered by the ministerial group

on family values, which he chairs, he said several times that the Government did not want to be "preachy" about it. They were treating the area delicately, anxious not to be accused of provoking the inevitable "nanny state" charges. But parenting, he said, was now surfacing as a serious issue.

Although slightly wary about treading on the territory of his close Cabinet colleague David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, he backed the

be woven into the personal and social development classes. In the same way there should be provision for citizenship education. "This is all about fostering personal responsibility towards others, building up a sense of responsibility to society early in life. The most fundamental responsibility of all is to your children and the earlier that is taught the better."

As for parents themselves, they should offer help early. "There is no reason why more explicit, if informal, advice should not be available to parents at toddler groups, nursery schools and so on. There is a lot of advice offered by the system to the parents of new-born children. And it works. But then it starts to peter out. We must ensure that it continues to be available."

Mr Straw admitted that he did not want to be seen to be too starchy-eyed. But he said that every time he had spoken on the subject of better parenting it had "touched a nerve" and he had been deluged with hundreds of letters.

Ideally the advice would always be at hand but not in a "dirigiste" way. It could become the "norm of communities". Through playgroups, health visitors, voluntary organisations, nursery groups it could gradually be built up so that people lived in communities where there was much more explicit sharing of the "pleasures and pains of parenthood", he said.

Mr Straw has known both in recent weeks.

**‘The fundamental responsibility is to your children and the earlier that is taught the better’**

growth of home-school contracts designed to keep parents more involved in their children's education. He spoke of his sadness that some parents could not be bothered to turn up to open evenings at schools. If they did not go to the school to discuss school reports they should be written to or telephoned to find out why.

Mr Straw is in favour of parenting being put on the national curriculum. It should

## Peers defeat Government on pharmacies

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government suffered a fresh defeat in the House of Lords last night as peers voted to protect small community pharmacists being undercut by supermarkets selling cheap drugs.

The Lords voted by 138 to 81 in favour of a cross party amendment to the Competition Bill which will effectively halt attempts to end a statutory agreement which keeps drug prices fixed.

The so-called Resale Price Maintenance (RPM), an agreement backed by the Restrictive Practices Court which prevents supermarkets selling over-the-counter non-prescription drugs at cheap prices, is currently being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading. Last night's vote will effectively delay this investigation for seven years.

Supermarkets protested that the amendment meant that consumers would still be hit by what they see as a "death tax" on the sick. But pharmacists welcomed the move which they said would ensure the survival of more than 3000 shops.

Although the Government is expected to try to overturn the vote when the Bill goes to the Commons, ministers will be keen to avoid being accused of attacking village



Lord Simon warned peers of EU action

pharmacies. Last night officials at the Department of Trade and Industry refused to say what the Government plans to do.

Lord Simon of Highbury, the Trade and Industry Minister, warned peers that the amendment, if accepted, could prompt European Union intervention to challenge resale price maintenance. The Bill is designed to bring Britain into line with European competition laws.

The amendment was moved by Lord McNally, a Liberal Democrat, and supported by Baroness Miller of Hendon, a Tory, and two Labour peers, Lords Stallard and Hughes.

## Welsh Assembly members to face secrets gag

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Official Secrets Act is to be used to gag all members of the proposed new Welsh Assembly — the first time Britain's powerful secrets laws have been imposed on elected representatives.

They could face jail if they make public any confidential information gained in their assembly work. This might apply to information about commercial contracts or terrorist activity, as well as correspondence with the European Union about regional grants or any Ministry of Defence activity such as low-flying exercises.

It would put elected members of the new Welsh democratic chamber under the same secrecy rules as government ministers, civil servants, police and the armed forces.

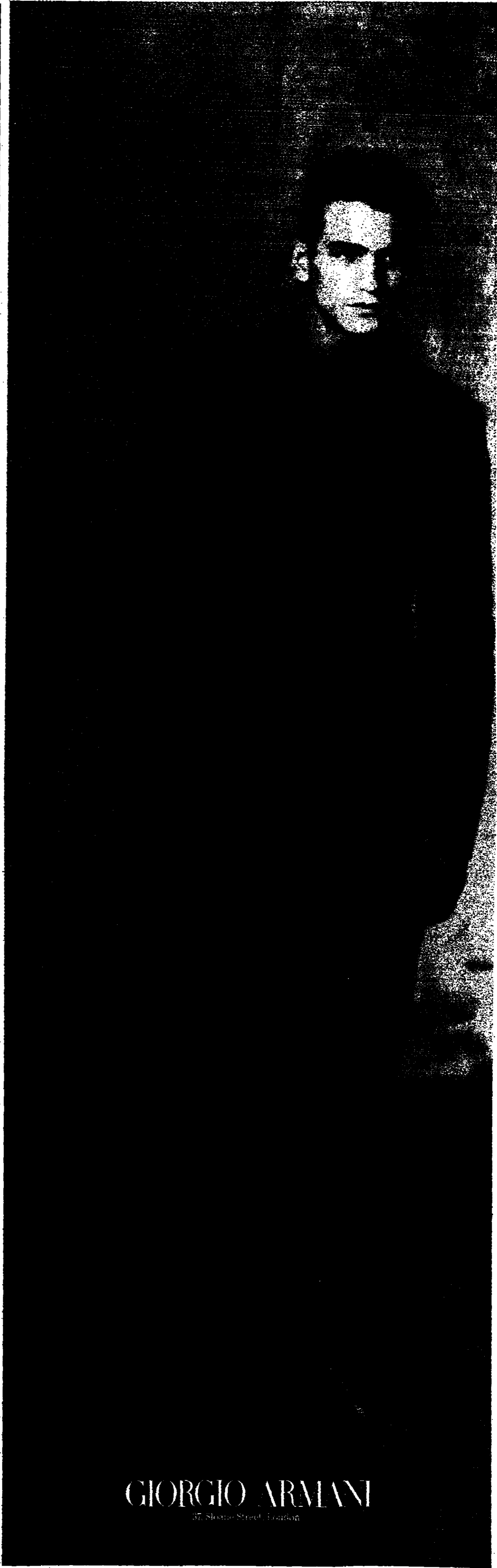
Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, last night vehemently defended the order and said it highlighted the powerful role and status of members in the new assembly. "We need to include members under the Act because they will have access to many official and government documents. They may see far more papers than a Westminster MP, and with that power must come responsibility."

The special terms for the Welsh Assembly have been

drawn up to reflect its unique status — it is not a law-making forum like Westminster and the proposed Scottish Parliament, but it will operate as an executive body. There will be ministers in Edinburgh, but the plan for the Welsh Assembly is for it to be run by committees, with all members having access to official and confidential information normally held by Welsh Office ministers and officials.

The heavy-handed use of the Official Secrets Act has incensed MPs of all parties. Geoffrey Robertson, QC, a leading civil rights lawyer, said last night: "This is potentially incompatible with Article 9 of the 1688 Bill of Rights, which secures freedom of speech in Parliament. It would mean that members of the Welsh Assembly would not enjoy freedom of speech."

The "Big Brother" approach is contained in clause 79 of the Wales Bill and is to be challenged when MPs debate the report stage later this month. It was passed by the Cabinet sub-committee on the constitution chaired by Lord Irvine of Lairg, without a whisper. The clause states: "An assembly member is a Crown servant for the purposes of the Official Secrets Act 1989."



GIORGIO ARMANI  
37, St James Street, London



GIORGIO ARMANI  
57, Sloane Street, London

# Embattled Albanians plead for Western military

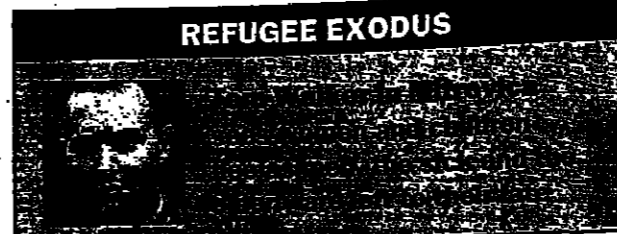
## Serb forces shell Kosovo villages

THE first refugees from Serbia's bloody clampdown on its Kosovo Albanians staggered into towns northwest of Pristina yesterday as police and unidentified army or paramilitary units shelled their remote villages with artillery and a helicopter gunship.

Mostly women and children, they had walked for six hours over a mountain and through woods to safety, leaving men and the sick and elderly to an uncertain fate. They appealed for immediate military intervention by the West to stop the gathering slaughter.

"It is our only chance," said one weeping woman, Zefi Halili, 53. She described how, as the helicopter gunship hovered in the distance at daybreak, her husband told her and their two daughters to flee while he remained with their 15-year-old son. "He didn't say much, just 'God help you'," she mumbled in shock, choking back tears.

Mrs Halili and 27 relatives found safety in Mitrovica which, with the neighbouring town of Vucitrona, received the bulk of the refugees. Doctors there said they were unable to cross police blockades to get medical supplies to villages under attack. "The war has practically started," said the senior surgeon at the Mother Teresa clinic in Mitrovica. The



REFUGEE EXODUS

action, which began at around 5am, came after Serbs had been moved from near the attack zone and elsewhere in Kosovo. Many of them, who are already resettled from former Serb areas in Croatia, fear reprisals from the Albanians and are also possibly making way for a more intensive military campaign by the security forces.

The Democratic League of Kosovo claimed that the Serb assaults had caused heavy casualties. But with police and troops blocking entry to the

area, it was impossible to verify this. Belgrade television reported that 20 Albanians and two Serb policemen died in fighting in the village of Prekaz. Albanians spoke of heavy casualties during the attacks.

Belgrade claims that this central Drenica region is home to the Kosovo Liberation Army. Each of the villages targeted, Prekaz and Llausha, have around 80 households. The women and children who fled said they saw tanks and a helicopter gunship involved,

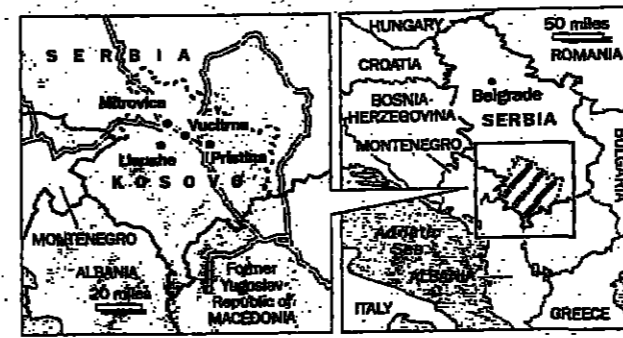
and a mixture of army and police units. They described soldiers in green and yellow camouflage and helmets, and police in their standard blue uniforms.

"Everything is under the flame - everything is destroyed," said Mrs Halili. They opened the doors of the helicopter and started shooting. As soon as we saw it we fell to the ground." A neighbour said that she saw the helicopter fire rockets, while another spoke of cannons and heavy machinegun fire.

At the numerous checkpoints around Pristina and Mitrovica, police were edgy. They said the roads through the area, which centres on Srbica, the main paramilitary and police base for the Kosovo campaign, would be closed for at least 24 hours.

They claimed the attacks were a reply to an assault on a police vehicle by Albanians, but on Wednesday police had angrily interrogated journalists whom they suspected of travelling near Prekaz. Some state sources have suggested paramilitaries with "ethnic cleansing" experience in Croatia and Bosnia are running amok in Kosovo, disregarding orders for a more tactical campaign from Belgrade. The ugliness of the men involved is plain to see for anyone who

Continued on page 17



## Belgrade unmoved by EU threat of isolation

By MICHAEL BINTON

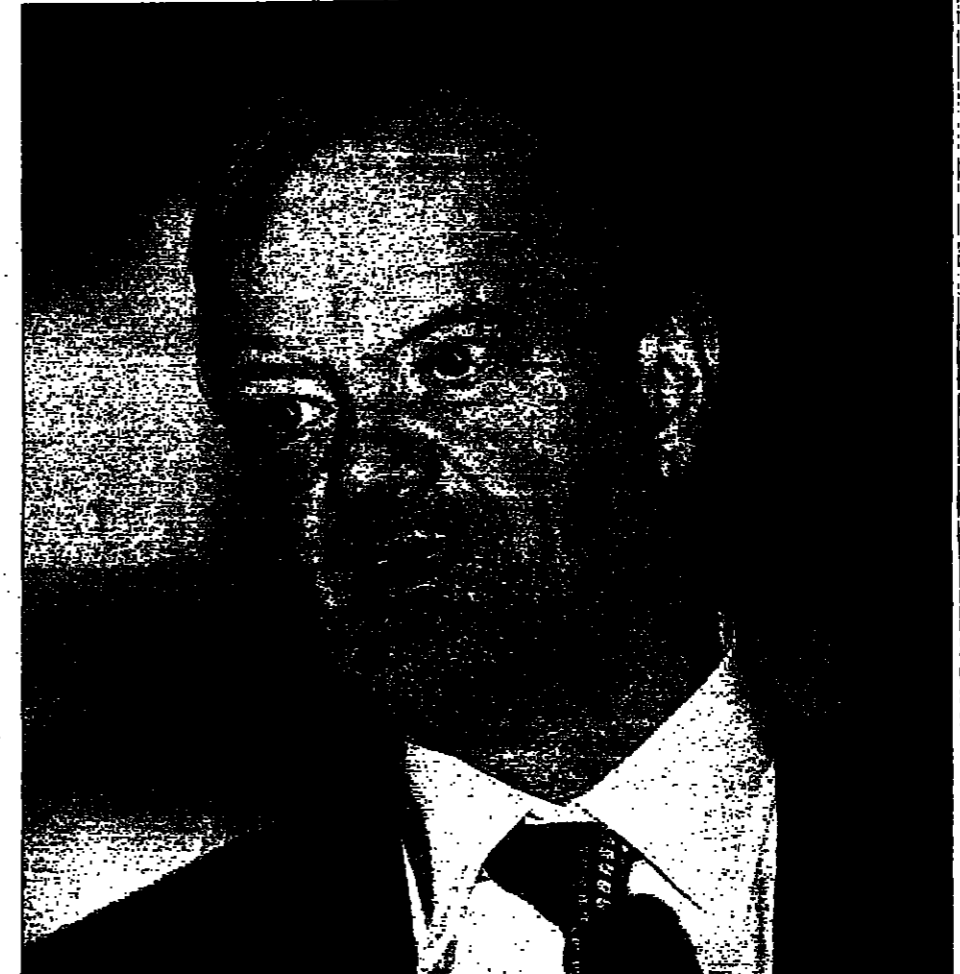
ROBIN COOK yesterday warned the Yugoslav Government that unless it ended the bloody repression of the Albanian majority in Kosovo it faced new isolation in Europe.

The Foreign Secretary had a blunt talk with President Milosevic, telling him Europe would not hesitate to reimpose sanctions on Yugoslavia if killings continued. He added that the majority of Albanians were peaceful, moderate and non-violent, but felt their reasonable political demands were not being met.

But yesterday evening he left Belgrade after failing to secure any promise by Mr Milosevic to find a political solution to the crisis. "I wish I could say that I leave here more hopeful than when I arrive," he said, adding that instead he was left with a feeling of grave concern.

Mr Milosevic said Kosovo was an internal matter and that problems there could be solved only within Serbia. Mr Cook warned him that the six-member Contact Group, which meets in London on Monday, would support tough measures to enforce an end to the bloody crackdown.

Mr Milosevic was unwell, suffering from flu, and apparently reluctant to see Mr Cook. He eventually received him at his house. Mr Cook asked the Yugoslav leadership to allow the European Union to open an office in Pristina so it could keep track of what was going on. He said



Robin Cook in Belgrade yesterday, where he had talks with President Milosevic

the EU would also see what financial help it could give to resolve the crisis.

He said before leaving that Mr Milosevic had repeated his desire to normalise relations between Yugoslavia and the EU, but this was not possible unless Belgrade showed the standards of a modern European state. "Kosovo is a major test for that," he said.

Earlier, Mr Cook told Zivadin Jovanovic, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, that the crisis could not be ended by policing, only by a political solution that provided for autonomy for Kosovo. He demanded that Belgrade implement the education agreement which would allow uni-

versities and schools in the province to get back to normal. "So long as they are closed, there is a breeding ground for terrorism."

He told BBC television before meeting Mr Milosevic it was an irony that the Kosovo Albanians had more autonomy under the Communists than they had now, ten years after the fall of communism. "If Milosevic and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia want to have a healthy, clearer relationship with Europe, they can only do it if they adopt the standards of a European country in dealing with their own people and with ethnic minorities within their country."

war crimes in Bosnia surrendered yesterday to the Stabilisation Force (SFOR). Dragoljub Kunarac turned himself over to French and German troops in southeastern Bosnia. He was a commander of the Serb volunteer units and is charged with orchestrating sexual assaults against Bosnian women and raping three victims himself. He is the fourth Serb suspect to surrender in a month.

Carlos Westendorp, the international peace co-ordinator, yesterday dismissed the Croat Mayor of Stolac, in Bosnia, because he had repeatedly blocked the return of Muslim refugees - the first time that he had removed an elected official.

## War tribunal cuts sentence on Croat who shot 70 Muslims

FROM REUTERS IN THE HAGUE

THE UN war crimes tribunal yesterday halved the jail sentence of Drazen Erdemovic, the convicted Bosnian Croat war criminal, basing its decision on his expressions of remorse and his youth.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia ruled that Erdemovic, 26, should spend five years in prison instead of ten. He will walk free in 2000, as he has been in custody for two years. Erdemovic has admitted killing at least 70 unarmed Bosnian Muslims after the UN "safe haven" of Srebrenica fell to Bosnian Serbs in mid-1995.

"Erdemovic should be given a second chance to start his life afresh while he is still young enough to do so," Florence Mumba, the presiding judge, said.

A former soldier in the Bosnian Serb force, Erdemovic pleaded guilty to war crimes in January after appeals judges at the international tribunal for former Yugoslavia overturned a conviction on the more serious charge of crimes against humanity. Prosecutors and defence lawyers at the pre-sentence hearing recommended Erdemovic be jailed for seven years. The judges cut his sentence to five years and said they would take into

account two years Erdemovic had already spent in custody.

Dressed in a blue suit, Erdemovic sat impassively through most of the hearing, then looked stunned as the sentence was read. He was part of a Bosnian Serb army detachment that killed hundreds of Bosnian Muslims who were taken in a bus to a collective farm in July 1995. In evidence at his original trial, he estimated that he had killed about 70 people, shooting them individually with a Kalashnikov rifle after being forced to do so on pain of death.

Judge Mumba said the severity of the crime constituted an aggravating circumstance. "No matter how reluctant his initial decision to participate was, he continued to kill for most of that day," she said. "The post-traumatic stress which the accused suffered from in the aftermath of the Srebrenica atrocities demonstrates how he himself has suffered from being forced to commit the killings against his will," the court ruled.

The court found Erdemovic to be honest and without bigotry, borne out by the fact he was married to a woman of different ethnic origin, a Serb.



Erdemovic in court yesterday to hear his sentence reduced

£360m of 'stolen b

Berisha Alliance in genocide warning



help to prevent slaughter in Belgrade clampdown



Ethnic Albanian women and children fled Drenica in a tractor yesterday, leaving behind men and the sick

continued from page 16  
 nures out of Pristina and  
 us the gamut of the road  
 locks. "These people should  
 be ashamed of themselves,"  
 said a former Marine from the  
 Serbian Army's Elite 63rd  
 parachute Regiment. "They  
 could be sent back in Bel-  
 grade with their tails between  
 their legs."  
 An Albanian businessman  
 Mitrovica said Kosovo, for  
 so long dubbed the tinder box  
 of the Balkans, was now  
 seeing the type of ethnic  
 cleansing meted out by Serb  
 forces to Croatia and Bosnia.  
 "They kept us here for the  
 dessert," he said.  
 Mitrovica's Albanian doc-  
 tors, dismissed from the state  
 system by President Milosevic  
 in 1989, begged for interna-  
 tional help to deal with the  
 expected casualties from  
 Lausha and Prekaz. The  
 Mother Teresa clinic has only  
 three beds, but transferring  
 the wounded to better-  
 equipped Serb hospitals is  
 virtually impossible. "We  
 might reach a state hospital  
 somehow but this is like  
 sending an Albanian to jail,"  
 said Dr Sami Haxhibeciri, 65.  
 He added that he and his  
 colleagues would be treated as  
 terrorists. "I trained in Bel-  
 grade but I will never go back  
 there," he said. "Our only  
 salvation now rests with Nato  
 and America."  
 Meanwhile, in Pristina  
 Serb riot police last night  
 broke up a demonstration of  
 women in front of the Ameri-  
 can Information Centre. The  
 capital's police station was  
 lightly strafed by automatic  
 weapons fire overnight, and  
 shooting was heard elsewhere.

£360m of Bosnian aid  
'stolen by fraudsters'

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MILLIONS of pounds in  
 international aid to Bosnia are  
 being embezzled with the  
 knowledge and co-operation  
 of ministers and senior gov-  
 ernment officials, a delegation  
 of Bosnian MPs has told  
 British officials and auditors.  
 (They said that almost \$600  
 million (£360 million) in aid  
 given by America, the Euro-  
 pean Union and the United  
 Nations had gone missing.  
 And "tens of millions" of  
 dollars sent to Bosnia for  
 industrial regeneration had  
 gone to line the pockets of  
 government officials, mafia  
 bosses and criminals.  
 Stanko Slijskovic, the head  
 of the delegation invited by  
 Britain to tell Parliament and  
 the Government what it is  
 doing to fight the massive  
 fraud now undermining re-  
 construction efforts, said his  
 group lived in fear for their  
 lives. Since the commission  
 was established in Bosnia last  
 August, its members had re-  
 ceived death threats and an-  
 onymous telephone warnings.  
 "We were ordered by senior  
 government officials to an-  
 nounce that everything was  
 fine and that there was no  
 corruption. We refused. We  
 owe it to our people who are  
 poor and want help," he said.  
 "Without aid we will come  
 close to disaster."  
 The five-man delegation  
 yesterday briefed the Treas-  
 ury, the Foreign Office and  
 the National Audit Office, and  
 urged Britain and its partners  
 to insist on transparency when  
 giving funds. They said that  
 there was no proper account-  
 ing in Bosnia, no record where  
 the money went and no way of  
 enforcing change even when it  
 was known who was siphon-  
 ing off the aid. Producing  
 proof of wrong-doing and  
 stopping the biggest embez-  
 zlers was "like trying to catch  
 leeches thrown from a roof-  
 top", said Professor Izudin  
 Kesetovic, an economist and  
 member of the group.  
 Robin Cook, the Foreign  
 Secretary, last year gave a  
 public warning in Sarajevo  
 that unless there was a crack-  
 down on fraud and embezzle-  
 ment, international aid to  
 Bosnia would stop. But the  
 MPs made clear that nothing  
 had since been done except  
 pay lip-service to change. They  
 said that only Britain and  
 America had made any real  
 effort to stop the theft of  
 foreign aid: other countries  
 just shrugged their shoulders.  
 Mr Slijskovic said that they  
 knew which senior figures  
 were involved, but without  
 proof could do nothing. They  
 were denied any investigatory  
 powers, and could only guess  
 which banks in Bosnia were  
 involved. All their requests to  
 Bosnia's Foreign Ministry for  
 details of international grants  
 were ignored. "On some trans-  
 actions the losses have  
 amounted to \$50 million," he  
 said.  
 The group said corruption  
 was rife throughout Bosnia  
 because their country still had  
 no unified customs system,  
 border controls or proper tax  
 collection. Cross-border smug-  
 gling and between the Bosni-  
 an Federation and the  
 Bosnian-Serb Republika  
 Srpska could not be stopped as  
 too many people had an  
 interest in it.  
 The MPs said their only  
 protection was their involve-  
 ment with the British and  
 American ambassadors and  
 Carlos Westendorp, the High  
 Representative in Bosnia.

Berisha  
alliance in  
genocide  
warning

FROM REUTERS  
IN TIRANA

ALBANIAN opposition parties  
 yesterday accused Serbia  
 of pursuing a policy of gen-  
 ocide in its Kosovo province  
 and urged all ethnic Albnians  
 to defend themselves.

In a statement published by  
 the newspaper *Rilindja  
 Demokratike*, run by former  
 President Berisha's Democrac-  
 tic Party, 19 opposition parties  
 and nine associations also  
 called on the international  
 community to deploy peace-  
 keeping troops in Kosovo.

Unconfirmed reports said  
 Serbian police and troops  
 attacked villages in the  
 Drenica region, west of the  
 provincial capital Pristina,  
 where almost 30 Albanians  
 were killed last weekend.

"We call on all Albanians in  
 Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia,  
 Montenegro, the diaspora and  
 wherever they are... to be  
 ready to react to the Serbian  
 aggressor as one nation to  
 protect our existence, children,  
 houses and land," the parties  
 said.

Any international appease-  
 ment of President Milosevic of  
 Yugoslavia would only "serve  
 to encourage his policy of  
 ethnic cleansing and genocide  
 against Albanians", they ad-  
 ded in the statement.

International concern is  
 running high after the worst  
 bloodshed since Belgrade in  
 1989 removed autonomy from  
 the province, where Albanians  
 outnumber Serbs nine to one.

The signatories said the  
 UN, Nato and the EU should  
 "deal urgently with this prob-  
 lem and send a civil and  
 military presence to Kosovo as  
 a way of preventing the con-  
 flict spreading".



Albanian refugees in Brussels call for international intervention in Kosovo

Exiles recruit volunteers to be  
ready for full-scale struggle

By JAMES PETTIFER

LEADERS of the Kosovo  
 Albanians have launched a  
 Europe-wide recruitment  
 drive for volunteers to fight  
 against Serbia if full-scale war  
 breaks out.

A meeting in London on  
 Wednesday night of repre-  
 sentatives from the 8,000-strong  
 London Albanian community  
 was "extremely angry and  
 bitter", according to Isa  
 Zymberi, president of the  
 London Kosovo Democratic  
 League. A solidarity fund has  
 been opened in Britain, and  
 the names of hundreds of  
 young potential military vol-  
 unteers are being taken.

The large Albanian diaspora  
 is an asset, particularly in  
 terms of money, that the Serbs  
 cannot match. The key coun-  
 tries are Switzerland, where  
 there are more than 100,000  
 Kosovans, and Germany,  
 where they are led by Bujar  
 Bukoshi, a kidney specialist  
 and radical critic of Ibrahim

Expatriates have  
 the funds to buy  
 weaponry for  
 a war, writes  
 James Pettifer

Rugova, the Kosovo pacifist  
 leader. In Switzerland, the  
 traditionally radical leaders  
 include many who were im-  
 prisoned as a result of the  
 bitter struggles in the 1980s  
 in the Trepeca mines, and many  
 Kosovo Liberation Army  
 (KLA) supporters.

They are rich, centred in  
 Geneva, Zurich, Basle and  
 Lucerne. There have been  
 allegations of involvement in  
 the heroin business and other  
 Mafia activities that the Swiss  
 LDK leaders angrily reject.  
 The 65,000 Kosovans in  
 America are conservative,

mostly small businessmen,  
 and are the major group that  
 still supports Dr Rugova.

The key issue throughout  
 the diaspora is how far Dr  
 Rugova can hang on to his  
 supporters and how many of  
 the young and embittered  
 exiles throw their weight  
 behind the gunmen and guerril-  
 las. London Kosovans are  
 taking a middle course with  
 the closure of the pro-Rugova  
 Kosovo Democratic League  
 office and virtual 100 per cent  
 support for Mr Bukoshi. It is  
 believed some fundraising for  
 the KLA guerrillas takes  
 place, but on a much smaller  
 scale than in Germany and  
 Switzerland.

Zagreb: Ethnic Albanians  
 in Croatia called on their  
 community to send men and  
 equipment to help separatist  
 guerrillas in Kosovo, Hina  
 news agency reported. The  
 Union of Albanian Communi-  
 ties in Croatia condemned  
 Serbian aggression in the  
 province. (AFP)



GIORGIO ARMANI

صكازمان لائصل

# Tiger bus bomb kills thirty in Colombo

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

A BUS bomb killed at least 30 people and injured 200 in the Sri Lankan capital yesterday, demonstrating the Tamil Tigers' continued ability to spread terror despite the biggest drive to crush them in the 14-year guerrilla war.

The Colombo blast confirms the fate of a government peace initiative that few people seriously believe has any hope of ending one of the world's bloodiest and longest conflicts. The battle against Tamil terrorists and a 1980s campaign against a violent Sinhalese uprising have claimed 90,000 lives in a country of 18 million.

The bus, being chased by police after a minor accident, was probably on its way to the city centre, but the driver — the only person on board — detonated the bomb early outside a police post. Vehicles were tossed long distances and shops shattered. A policeman was among those who died.

Most of the carnage came from ball bearings inserted into the bomb to ensure maximum casualties. The Tigers have access to a supply of suicide bombers, known as Black Tigers, to sustain a campaign to destroy central Colombo. The central financial district was partly wrecked by two huge lorry bombs last year. It remains sealed off from traffic and police nervously examine vehicles driving towards the area, aware that they are easy prey for suicide bombers. At night bars and cafes once popular with tourists are silent and empty. By day the central area resembles a construction site.

President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, 52, is waging a fierce drive against the Tigers after concluding that there is no chance of a negotiated settlement, and says she will never trust their leadership after being betrayed in earlier peace talks. She rarely ventures out because of assassination fears. "When I have time to daydream I see myself walking without guards on the roads," she says.

The Tigers have been significantly weakened in the past few years and forced into a small, densely forested area in the island's northeast, from where they are able to conduct hit-and-run guerrilla warfare. They have satellite telephone communications and high-powered radios, and still broadcast propaganda from a clandestine radio station.



GIORGIO ARMANI  
Via della Spina, 251 - 00187 Roma, Italy

## Islamic bombing suspects arrested

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI and Palestinian security forces yesterday claimed they had smashed an Islamic terror cell, responsible for a series of suicide bombings.

Israel radio reported that Shin Bet, the Israeli secret police, and the Israel Defence Force had uncovered an underground military network run by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. The network included operatives in Ramallah and Nablus, towns in the West Bank which are under the control of the Palestinian Authority, and also members in Jerusalem.

Members of the group are alleged to have helped to carry out suicide bombings in Jerusalem's open-air market and the city's main pedestrian mall. Five suicide bombers killed 22 Israelis in two attacks last year.

Shin Bet arrested 15 alleged members of Hamas, including a worker at a jail in Nablus, who is believed to be one of the group's leaders. The Palestinian security forces also arrested alleged members of the Hamas cell in Nablus.

The arrests came after reports that the US Central Intelligence Agency has been training the Palestinian security forces in espionage and interrogation techniques.



Dror Zeigerman, Israel's new Ambassador, with his wife Asi, presented his credentials to the Queen yesterday. Dror, meaning "freedom" in Hebrew, was born on May 14, 1948, the day the last British soldier left Palestine.

## Cook steps up Middle East peace drive

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, will hold talks with Tony Blair on Sunday. The announcement came as Britain yesterday launched a diplomatic drive to repair its battered relations with the Arab world and step up pressure on Israel to kick-start the Middle East peace process.

Mr Netanyahu will spend an hour in Downing Street at the end of a rapid European tour that takes him first to Madrid, Bonn and Oslo. He will give his response to the letter that Mr Blair sent to him, President Clinton and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, asking them to outline proposals to unblock the peace process.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, promising in his first main speech on the Middle East a period of "intense" European diplomacy, yesterday pledged that the European Union, under Britain's leadership, would play a substantially larger role in the peace process.

He announced that he and Mr Blair would both visit the region in the next few weeks. He promised new EU aid to help the Palestinian economy and fight terrorism. He also

called on Israel and the Palestinians to commit themselves wholeheartedly to the Oslo agreements. Mr Cook also promised the Arabs a new partnership with Britain, building on strong historical ties. He said that he and Clare Short, the Overseas Development Secretary, would chair a meeting in London next month to discuss how Europe could help to ensure that the Iraqi people received the food imported under the newly increased oil-for-food programme.

Mr Cook proposed immediate steps to get the peace process moving. These included "substantial, credible and

urgent" further redeployments by Israel; a parallel commitment by the Palestinians to implement and monitor security agreements; a halt to all settlement expansion; the building and opening of Gaza airport, seaport and the passage to the West Bank and resumption of final status talks as soon as there is progress on the ground.

These measures will restore some of the trust and optimism that the peace process had before. Mr Cook told the Anglo-Arab Association in a speech to mark its 10th anniversary. They will require compromise and imagination from both sides.

## Move to scrap Italian at summit sparks squabble

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN was trying last night to soothe Italian and Spanish feelings in a squabble over language that is casting a shadow over a grand Europe summit in London next week to launch the enlargement of the European Union.

The two nations are upset over plans to break with EU practice and limit interpretation at next Thursday's 26-nation Europe Conference to a handful of languages, not including their own.

Italian annoyance has been compounded by their country's depiction as a slice of pizza on Britain's logo for its current presidency of the EU. Italy was also angered by initial reports that Britain had agreed, under pressure from Madrid, to include Spanish, along with German, French and English, at the summit, which will be attended by the leaders of ten former Communist bloc states, Cyprus and the 15 EU members.

For the first time at a European summit, a presidency is drawing a line between first and second-class languages, putting Dante second to the languages of Cervantes, Voltaire, Goethe and Shakespeare. *Il Giornale*, an Italian daily, complained yesterday, Italian diplomats, who were hoping for a British concession last night, said if Britain did not budge Professor Romano Prodi, their

linguistic nightmare in store for the Union as it prepares to expand. The one-day summit is the ceremonial start to EU's biggest enlargement.

London was planning to have interpreters relay the native words of the Prime Ministers and heads of state at Lancaster House into only English, French and German. The choice was justified because these are the working languages of Coreper, the powerful Brussels council of EU ambassadors. The limit was necessary for technical and space reasons, British officials said. They pointed out that speakers could use all languages, but would have to listen in a limited number of tongues, still to be decided.

Brussels was surprised at the British action, given the sensitivity of the issue. Unlike the United Nations, which works in five official languages, the EU prides itself on linguistic equality. But the limits were strained by the last expansion, which added Finnish and Swedish, bringing the total to 11.

Prime Minister, might decide to protest by not listening, they hinted. Spanish insistence on a Castilian version is partly practical since José María Aznar, the Prime Minister, does not speak any other language fluently.

Diplomats were trying last night to defuse the squabble, which offers a taste of the

## Sicilians net Greek statue

TRAPANI, Sicily. Fishermen have found a bronze statue of a man, believed to be from Ancient Greece, while fishing off Sicily. "It is a very important discovery," said Rinaldo Camerata Scovazza, a cultural official in Trapani in western Sicily, adding that the figure probably dated from the late Hellenic period.

She said the hollow bronze, measuring 6ft tall and 3ft across the shoulders, was a representation of wind. The statue was found in international waters some 60 miles off the coast of Sicily. Culture officials had already asked the Italian navy to search the area after one of the statue's legs was found by other fishermen last June.

The statue, which was being immersed in a bath of non-salt water to clean it, now has only one leg and is airm. One arm came off as it was being hauled to the surface and the other had already been lost.

The early Greeks regarded the shores of Sicily and southern Italy as the limits of the inhabited world. *(Reuters)*

Clinton on oath ex with  
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# Clinton 'denied on oath having sex with Monica'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON admitted he might have been alone in the White House with Monica Lewinsky and that their relationship included exchanging gifts, according to the first detailed leak of his secret sworn testimony. But he denied having sexual relations with the former trainee — including fondling her — in his five-hour deposition in the sexual harassment case brought by Paula Jones.

Yesterday Mr Clinton's three private attorneys issued a fiercely worded account denying any White House role in the leak. One, Robert Bennett, said the extraordinarily detailed account in *The Washington Post* yesterday was "obviously" leaked "by antagonists of the President" and this was "a reprehensible act". According to the *Post*, which has obtained a detailed account of the sealed testimony, "the President's mood seemed generally sober" and "his voice was so low at times that he was asked repeatedly to speak up".

The Saturday of the sworn deposition marked the beginning of the White House's "Week from Hell", as a storm

of allegations that Mr Clinton had a sexual affair with the 21-year-old trainee plunged him into the most serious legal and political crisis of his presidency. It also marked a humiliating trough in presidential power as he was forced to submit to questions about his sex life.

The interrogation by Mrs Jones's lawyers, which alarmed Mr Clinton by its unexpected focus on Ms Lewinsky, has complicated enormously his room for manoeuvre. Although it is a civil case, Mr Clinton would be exposed to charges of perjury if his sworn statements could be shown to be false. Mr Clinton's denial of

any form of sexual contact leaves him almost no "wiggle room", in the view of his advisers, who have been mulling over whether he should give a fuller account of his relationship with the trainee that would admit intimacy, but stop short of the oral sex she described to her friend, Linda Tripp.

The President testified that it was Betty Currie, his personal secretary, who first approached his friend, Vernon Jordan, about finding Ms Lewinsky a job outside Washington. Mr Jordan's efforts to do so offer some of the firmest clues that his relationship with the President went far beyond that of most interns. According to reports yesterday, Mr Clinton acknowledged exchanging gifts with Ms Lewinsky. She gave him a tie and a book. He gave her souvenirs from Martha's Vineyard.

Mr Clinton, who denied propositioning Mrs Jones in an Arkansas hotel room in 1991, did admit having had sex with Jennifer Flowers — once, in 1977, so contradicting the singer's claim of a 12-year affair.

## Billy Graham is ready to forgive

Washington: Billy Graham said he would forgive President Clinton if he was found to have had sex with Monica Lewinsky and told her to lie about it. "He has such a tremendous personality that I think the ladies just go wild over him," he said. *Reuters*



President Clinton during a White House event this week against drink-driving

# Li laments 'blind' investment as troubles beset China

FROM JAMES FRINGLE IN BEIJING

IN HIS SWANSONG speech yesterday as Prime Minister, Li Peng gave a warning of conflicts and problems in China's economic and social development.

Speaking against a national backdrop of tens of millions of unemployed and an economic recession in East Asia, he told the National People's

Congress (NPC), China's nominal parliament, that "quite a number of state-owned enterprises are experiencing difficulties in production and operation, causing an increase in unemployment and resulting pressures".

He told the almost 3,000 delegates, among whom were street sweepers, teachers, military personnel, businessmen and minority groups in col-

ourful national costumes, that there had been "blindness in investment" and that many construction projects were now worthless. He added that the quality and performance of the national economy remained poor.

Nevertheless, Mr Li hailed China's overall achievement in raising living standards to the extent that 85 per cent of Chinese households now owned a television set. This

was, perhaps, an attempt to put a gloss on his own ten-year tenure as Prime Minister, although he is remembered chiefly by Chinese for his brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square.

Although he has to relinquish his post after ten years, Mr Li, 69, is not disappearing from the political scene and remains No. 2 in the Chinese Communist Party. He is expected to take over as Chair-

man of the NPC, replacing Qiao Shi, a veteran politician widely believed to have been forced into retirement to make way for Mr Li.

In his speech, the Prime Minister assured delegates that there had been breakthroughs in reforming state enterprises and that this policy would continue with more mergers and bankruptcies. Reflecting on an issue that

causes more anger than any other among the populace, Mr Li said that "corruption, extravagance and waste" were still rife and promised crackdowns against the corrupt.

Mr Li confirmed that the Government's growth target for this year was down almost 1 per cent to 8 per cent, with an inflation rate below 3 per cent. He reiterated that there would be no devaluation of the yuan, the Chinese currency.

# 'Bride of Wildenstein' seeks more alimony

New York: Jocelyn Wildenstein, the estranged wife of Alec Wildenstein, one of New York's wealthiest art dealers, yesterday vowed to pursue her husband through all the American courts until he paid her an appropriate divorce settlement (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

For the sum to be "appropriate", it would have to enable Mrs Wildenstein, whose penchant for face-lifts earned her the sobriquet "Bride of Wildenstein", to go

on leading the lavish lifestyle to which she has become accustomed after 19 years of marriage. Through Ed Rollins, her publicist, she indicated that the offer made by Mr Wildenstein — whose family fortune is more than \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) — were "wholly inadequate". Observers close to the case suggest that she may be demanding as much as \$10 million.

The previous day a judge of the New York state supreme court had ordered Mr

Wildenstein to pay her provisional monthly alimony of \$140,000. He had been paying his wife \$50,000 per month since she started divorce proceedings against him last September. Mr Wildenstein has challenged those proceedings, claiming that the New York court has no jurisdiction. He wants the case resolved in Switzerland, where he has filed his own divorce claim and where alimony tariffs are substantially lower.

# Britain to help Jakarta students

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

A EUROPEAN UNION delegation warned President Suharto yesterday that he could not reverse Indonesia's economic meltdown unless he implemented the package of reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

Britain also made a bilateral offer to use public funds to help the tens of thousands of Asian students studying in the United Kingdom who are suffering the effects of the eight-month crisis.

Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office minister representing the EU presidency, and Jim Cloos, the Cabinet chief of the European Commission, said they had a constructive meeting with Mr Suharto. "The President said to me he was committed to the IMF, and I very much hope that is the case," Mr Fatchett said.

Mr Fatchett announced that the British Government would provide £2 million for East Asians — about 25,000 of them — studying in the UK to complete their courses.

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The Swiss-managed MS Switzerland will make a short Easter cruise calling at Genoa, Ajaccio on Corsica, with time to explore the rugged beauty of this little visited island, Villefranche for the Riviera and an optional visit to Monaco, and Livorno for the lovely town itself and an optional visit to the island of Elba. The arrangements include flights from London Gatwick to Genoa and return, four nights cruising on full board and all port and airport taxes.

The MS Switzerland has 218 fully air-conditioned cabins with full facilities including air bath, shower, washbasin and television. The accommodation is spread over seven decks and the public facilities include one sitting dining in a delightful restaurant, a number of bars, Admiral's Lounge, shop, photo studio, fitness centre, library, casino, swimming pool, beauty parlour and reception.

There are a number of junior suites with partial balconies, telephone, video, radio, television, safe and mini-bar together with extra living space. Generally speaking the cabins are considered large by normal cruising standards and described as being light in aspect. The vessel, constructed by Swan Hunter and re-named in 1991 and again in 1996, measures a length of 238m and is 33.3m long, 7.0m on the beam, 15,739 gross tonnage and has a complement of 210 crew.

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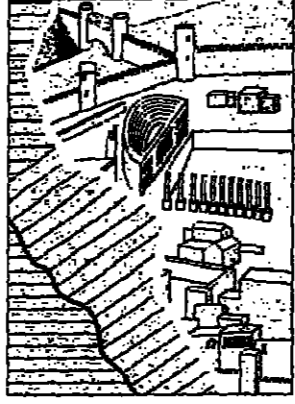
# Fresco found in Rome may show city Nero burnt

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

A DISPUTE broke out yesterday over the fate of a newly discovered underground wall painting that appears to depict Rome as it was before it burnt down in AD 64 under Emperor Nero.

The fresco was found by archaeologists on the wall of an underground passage in the ruins of what was once Nero's palace, the Golden House or *Domus Aurea*, which he had built after the fire as an act of megalomaniac self-aggrandisement. Although badly faded and damaged by damp, it clearly shows a detailed bird's-eye view of a fortified city, which may well be pre-fire Rome.

Francesco Rutelli, Mayor of Rome, said the find was a miraculous discovery that had come just in time for the run-up to the millennium, when Rome expects up to 40 million visitors. He said it should be



made available to as many visitors as possible, if necessary in a museum. But Eugenio La Rocca, the Superintendent of Archaeology, said the painting would be damaged if moved.

The painting came to light when archaeologists cleared away earth blocking a 100-yard cryptoporticus, or underground passageway, beneath the ruined Baths of Trajan.

Elisabetta Carnabugli, the archaeologist who made the discovery, said the painting dated from between the 1st century BC and the 2nd century AD. The scene shows a wide river resembling the Tiber; red palaces topped by golden statues, as well as poorer dwellings; a white semi-circular theatre with a red stage; a temple with a statue of Apollo; and a covered bridge with a central loggia and colonnade leading to an island. The city is surrounded by a great wall with seven towers, some with pinnacles. Experts say this could be the 6th-century BC Servian wall — rebuilt in 380 BC — almost nothing of which remains. The walls appear to be made of pale yellow blocks of dressed volcanic rock, or tufa.

It is not clear whether the fresco depicts Rome, perhaps to remind Nero of what was lost in the fire, or whether it shows an imaginary ideal city, or a mixture of both.



An archaeologist examines the disputed 2,000-year-old wall painting and, left, a detail from it in diagram form

# Jobless protests add to Kohl's misery

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

ANGRY, chanting Germans marched through the streets yesterday to protest against Helmut Kohl's economic policies and the stubbornly high levels of unemployment. Seasonally unadjusted figures revealed yesterday that 4.8 million are still unemployed, a jobless rate of 12.6 per cent.

Militants tried to blockade job centres and, in Frankfurt, Germany's financial centre, they heckled bankers. In Berlin, more than 2,000 municipal workers paraded through the city centre. Wage talks with their main union, the OeTV, have broken down and an all-out strike of bus and train drivers is edging closer.

Although the protests were rather spirited, pressure is mounting on the Government at a vulnerable moment. The Chancellor's Christian Democrats took a pasting in Sunday's regional elections and the opposition Social Democrats, full of confidence, have at last put up their challenger, Gerhard Schröder, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony.

Herr Kohl recently had to retract his promise to create two million jobs by 2000 and the Social Democrats sense that, with the growing politicisation of the unemployed, this will be his weakest point. Despite a forecast by the Government of 3 per cent growth for this year, most Germans no longer credit the Chancellor with great economic competence. With only six months before the general election, both Herr Kohl's coalition partners, the conservative Bavarian Christian Social Union and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), are trying to create some distance between themselves and him.

Vote lost: Herr Kohl yesterday lost a parliamentary vote for the first time since 1995 when the lower house passed a controversial law limiting new constitutional powers for anti-crime agencies to bug private households.

Dissidents in the FDP joined opposition MPs in imposing more limits on electronic surveillance than the Chancellor's side wanted.

The Christian Democrats wanted to protect only clergy, defence attorneys and parliamentarians from state snooping. But the legislation, approved by a 329-322 vote, widened the protection to doctors, journalists, tax advisers and several other professions, reflecting protests that press freedom and civil rights were under threat. (AP)

Letters, page 27

# Gunmen held after Brussels shootouts

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

A SUSPECTED Algerian terrorist was seriously wounded last night when Belgian police stormed a house in Brussels where he had barricaded himself after the arrest of seven others in an early-morning gunfight.

The man, who had fired at police with an automatic weapon, was captured in a third-floor flat in the inner suburb of Ixelles. He had escaped arrest in the raid by anti-terrorist police, who have been waging a campaign against suspected members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). Muslim extremists blamed for massacres in Algeria and terrorism in France.

Belgian television said the gunman was thought to be Farid Melouk, 32, sentenced by a French court in absentia last year to seven years' jail.

Heavily armed officers of the Gendarmerie special forces had sealed off the street and tried to negotiate with the man before moving into the building as night fell.

The Algerian Government has been pressing European states, including Britain, to crack down on Muslim groups.

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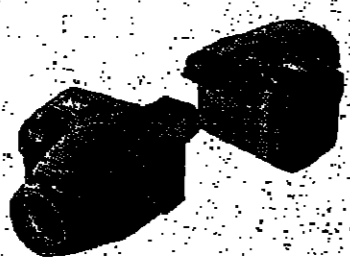
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- Retail Vision (US), Best Product—Hardware, Fall 1997, (Product Line)
- PC Photo (US), Editor's Choice, Nov/Dec 1997, (Product Line)
- Macworld (US), Eddy Award "Best Hardware Product", "Best Digital Camera", Jan 1998, (D-600L)
- Consumer Electronics Show (CES) (US), Innovation Award 1998, (D-600L)
- Popular Science (US), "Best of What's New" Grand Award—Photography, 11 Nov 1997, (D-600L)
- Publish (US), Impact 1997 Award Winner, (D-600L)
- Boo! (US), "Digital Shootout" Perfect 10 Score, Feb 1998, (D-600L)
- Home PC (US), Reviewers' Choice, Feb 1998, (D-600L)
- PC Graphics & Video (US), Editor's Choice, Top 50 Creative PC Products 1997, Dec 1997, (D-600L/D-500L)
- Digital Focus (US), Five Stars, Sept 1997, (D-600L)
- PC Magazine (US), Editor's Choice, Feb 1998, (D-500L)
- PC Computing (US), MVP Award, Five Stars, Nov 1997, (D-320L)
- Consumer's Digest (US), "Best Buy—Digital Cameras", Nov/Dec 1997, (D-320L/D-220L)
- Small Business Computing (US), "Best Buy", Jan 1998, (D-320L)
- Mac Addict (US), "Can't Miss Peripherals", Dec 1997, (D-320L)
- Equip (US), Best Overall Digital Camera, Winter 1997, (D-320L)
- Digital Photo (US), "The 10 Best Digital Cameras", Nov 1997, (D-320L)
- PC Computing (US), A List, Dec 1997, (D-320L)
- Petersen's PHOTOgraphic (US), Editor's Choice Award, Nov 1997, (D-320L)
- PC Magazine (US), Technical Excellence Award 1997 Finalist, (D-320L)
- Macworld Expo - Boston (US), "Best of Show", Aug 1997, (D-320L)
- Advancing Digital Photography Forum (Lyra Research) (US), "Most Compelling Digital Capture Product of 1997", (D-320L)
- Equip (US), "Best Value—Digital Cameras", Winter 1997, (D-220L)
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- Chasseur d'Images (France), Digital Camera of the Year, (C-1400L)
- Info PC (France), Star 98 Product, (C-1400L)
- PC Direct (France), Best Buy, (C-1400L)
- PC-World Norge (Norway), Computer Product of the Year 1997, (C-1400L)
- Aftenposten (Norway), Best in test, (C-1400L)
- PC magazine Norge (Norway), Best in test, (C-1000L)
- PC World Norge (Norway), Best in test, (C-800L)
- Vi menn (Norway), Olympus in the fast lane, (Product Line)
- PC Professionell (Germany), "The Best—Editor's Choice", Jan 1998, (C-1400L)
- Color Foto (Germany), "Superb—Editor's Choice", Jan 1998, (C-1400L)
- MacMAGAZIN & Macstasy (Germany), "Best Buy", Sept 1997, (C-820L)
- MacMAGAZIN & Macstasy (Germany), "The best in its class", Nov 1997, (C-1400L)
- MACUP (Germany), "very good", Dec 1997, (C-1400L)
- computer foto (Germany), "very good—the best among the snapshot cameras", Dec 1997, (C-1400L)
- c't 11/97 (Germany), "Olympus's quantum leap—real digital alternative for amateur photographers", 1997, (C-1400L)
- fotoMAGAZINE (Germany), "super", Jan 1998, (C-1400L)
- win (Germany), "good", Dec 1997, (C-820L)
- plus (Germany), "very good", Dec 1997, (C-820L)
- Macwelt (Germany), "good", Dec 1997, (C-820L)
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- Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Japan), "The 1997 Nikkei Awards for Creative Excellence in Products and Services", (C-1400L)
- Mac Fan (Japan), "MVP '97", (C-1400L)
- PC Computing (Japan), "MVP Award Japan", Mar 1998, (C-1400L)
- Nikkei Win PC (Japan), Close-up "Editor's Choice", Dec 1997, (C-1400L)
- Oh! PC (Japan), "Best Choice", Dec 1997, (C-1000L)
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- Macworld (UK), "Editors' Choice 4-Star Award", Mar 1998, (C-1400L)
- Electronic Imaging (UK), "high quality images", Jan 1998, (C-1400L)
- Professional Photographer and Digital Pro (UK), good review, Feb 1998, (C-1400L)
- Tomorrow's Technology Today (UK), "overall score of 8 out of 10", Feb 1998, (C-1400L)
- What Digital Camera Magazine (UK), "again, C-1400L is unrivalled", Nov, Dec 1997, (C-1400L)
- Amateur Photographer (UK), "83% of minitest rating", Jan 1998, (C-1400L)
- Practical Photographer (UK), good review, Jan 1998, (C-1400L)
- T3 Magazine (UK), good review, Feb 1998, (C-820L/C420L)
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- Tutti Fotografi (Italy), "opens a new era", (C-1400L)
- Fotografia (Italy), "high quality digital images", (C-820L)
- Elektronikvärlden (Sweden), "Best Picture Quality", "Best Buy", Jan/Feb 1998, (C-1400L)
- BUG (Croatia), "The Best in 1997—The Winner", (Product Line)
- VTDI (Croatia), "The Best in 1997—The Winner", (C-1400L)
- MOJ MIKRO (Slovenia), "The Best Digital Camera in 1997—The Winner", (C-1400L)
- MONITOR (Slovenia), "The Best Digital Camera in 1997—The Winner", (C-1400L)
- Foto & Doka (Holland), Topklasse Award, (C-1400L)
- Invex '97 (Czech Republic), "Crystal Disc", Oct 1997, (C-1400L)
- Moderní sekretariát (Czech Republic), "Crystal Disc", Nov 1997, (C-1400L)
- Office (Czech Republic), "Crystal Disc", Nov 1997, (C-1400L)
- lanCom (Czech Republic), "Crystal Disc", Nov 1997, (C-1400L)
- EKONOM (Czech Republic), "Crystal Disc", Nov-Dec 1997, (C-1400L)
- Advanced (Czech Republic), "Crystal Disc", Oct-Nov 1997, (C-1400L)

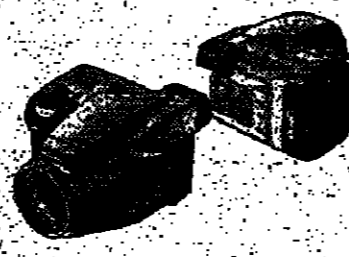
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 •Video output

# Russia to return Nabokov's land

For the first time since the Bolshevik Revolution, family estates are being handed back, writes

Richard Beeston

FOR the first time since Bolshevik revolutionaries confiscated the estates of Russia's landed gentry, a local authority outside St Petersburg has offered to return lands belonging to the family of Vladimir Nabokov, the late novelist.

In a move likely to generate huge interest in literary and émigré circles, authorities in Gatchina, 50 miles south of the former tsarist capital, have approached Dmitri Nabokov, the author's son, and offered to restore part of his family's extensive lands along the River Oredezh.

Mr Nabokov, an opera singer who lives in Switzerland, came to Moscow for the first time last week to attend the premiere of *Lolita*, the latest screen adaptation of his father's masterpiece, starring Jeremy Irons. "I never made any formal request to have our properties back, but was approached by [the local authorities] and asked if I would like part of them returned."

The offer will be watched keenly from Moscow, where seven years after the Soviet collapse there is still a furious ideological battle between



The young Vladimir Nabokov, who spent happy summers at Vyra, the family home near St Petersburg. Only the basement and foundations remain and it will be redesigned



Communists and reformers over land ownership. A new Land Code setting out the rights of private ownership has still not been made law and, aside from religious sites, there has been no restitution of properties confiscated 80 years ago. To circumvent the problem, the Nabokov estates will probably be returned on a leasehold basis and the writer's son said that he hoped the deal would be concluded in time for next year's centenary of his father's birth.

The Nabokovs were a rich and powerful family, who

served a succession of Russian monarchs with distinction and acquired three neighbouring estates, one belonging to Vladimir Nabokov's family, one to his grandmother and one to his uncle. In *Speak, Memory*, Nabokov's autobiography, the author frequently refers to the long summers of his youth at the family's estate at Vyra where he learnt to play tennis, went mushroom-picking and began a lifelong interest in collecting butterflies.

Dmitri Nabokov said that he feared the worst when he visited his family's estate for

the first time. "Frankly, I expected to see factories and squalor, but instead I was greeted by pristine green and blue," he said. "My father's recollections had not been distorted by time. It made quite an impression on me."

Although environmentally unspoilt, the main manor houses at the two Nabokov estates being offered for restitution require extensive repair. The house at Rozhdestveno, which had belonged to Vladimir Nabokov's uncle, had survived largely intact until it was gutted by fire in

1995. It is being rebuilt as a museum. Only the basement and foundations of the house at Vyra remain and Mr Nabokov said he would need to raise substantial sums from private donors in order to rebuild it. Because there are no detailed records, the new building will be a redesign, likely to include private apartments for Mr Nabokov, guest rooms for visiting writers and a conference centre for literary seminars.

In Russia, where literary greatness is revered above all else, the prospect of having the

Nabokov family return after more than 80 years has caused great excitement. However, it is not clear what the writer himself would have made of the fuss. He left Russia in 1919, read French and Russian literature at Trinity College, Cambridge, enjoyed a successful career as a writer and academic in America and retired to Switzerland, where he died in 1977.

In one passage of his autobiography, he admits to feeling nostalgic about his Russian past, but seems to care little for lost land and

wealth. "My old (since 1917) quarrel with the Soviet dictatorship is wholly unrelated to any question of property. My contempt for the émigré who 'hates the Reds' because they 'stole' his money and land is complete. The nostalgia I have been cherishing all these years is a hypertrophied sense of lost childhood, no sorrow for lost bunkies," he wrote in *Speak, Memory*. "I reserve for myself the right to yearn after an ecological niche... beneath the sky of my America to sigh for one locality in Russia."

## Doctor tells of vigil by dying Stalin

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

AN account of Stalin's last moments by a doctor summoned to keep him alive was published yesterday in a Russian newspaper to mark the 45th anniversary of the Soviet dictator's death.

Dr Galina Chesnokova told *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that she had completed a gall bladder operation on the night of March 2, 1953, when she found two policemen waiting outside the Moscow operating theatre. Still in white coat and mask, she was bundled into a car and driven without explanation to Stalin's dacha in the suburb of Kuntsevo.

She found the Government in attendance. Stalin lay on a bare bed. "I was horrified. Stalin seemed completely dead. This was a very old, pale man, his arms stretched out along his body. His daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, stood beside him; the doctors from the Kremlin hospital were also in attendance."

It was then that Dr Chesnokova, a specialist in brain surgery and re-animation, understood why she and her colleague, Dr Vladimir Negovsky, were there. "It was clear our task, as reanimators, was to revive him." The two spent the next three days, virtually without sleep, at his side before he expired at 9.50pm on March 5.

She said Stalin had suffered a stroke and remained unconscious. "Only right at the end did he raise his left hand. It seemed as though he was coming to and wanted to say something... But his hand dropped and he said nothing."

Her account tallies with Svetlana's in *Twenty Letters to a Friend*.

## Writer was haunted in exile by memory of good life he lost

BY PHILIP HOWARD

HOME is the scribbler, home from abroad, and Vladimir Nabokov's family can inherit his ancestral Russian estates. These are considerable.

The work of this Russian novelist, story-writer and entomologist was haunted by his sense of loss: loss of broad acres, family retainers and the *douceur de la vie* famously enjoyed by the European aristocracy before the world earthquake, which erupted in 1914 and has only started to subside. Above all, loss of Russia and Russian.

Another tricky fabulist, James Joyce, recommended silence, exile and cunning as the weapons of the writer.

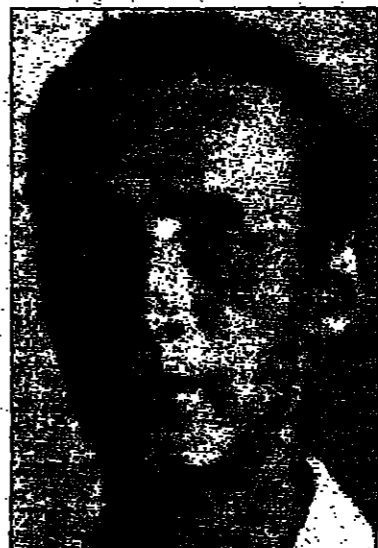
Nabokov deployed the defence of the last two.

Nabokov was born into a wealthy and prominent family in St Petersburg in 1899. His father, Vladimir, was a member of the Russian Constituent Assembly. When the writer was 20, the family moved to Yalta at the start of the Bolshevik Revolution. After the White armies' defeat, the Nabokovs went into exile. Young Vladimir studied modern languages at Cambridge and published poems, short stories and novels in Russian while living in Berlin and Paris.

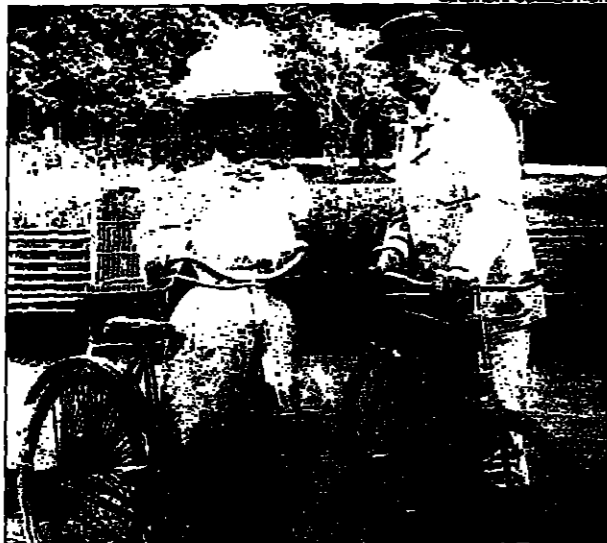
In 1940 he emigrated to America, settled in Boston and took up American citizenship. And he started writing

in English. The key to his achievement is the agony he endured in exile. The key to his failure, *Invitation to a Beheading* (1969), lies in his desire for fame at any cost. This sappy and contorted novel was admired for a while. *Lolita*, his most famous book, is a study in obsession with a nymphet.

This is a tour de force less substantial than *Invitation*, in which he examines his own predicament as an exiled Russian academic in America. He is the cleverest of 20th-century novelists and owes a huge debt to Gogol. The return of the Nabokovs to their ancestral Russian estates is a fit theme for a Nabokov short story, written in several interlocking strata.



Nabokov in Berlin, 1925, when he wrote poems and novels



Nabokov's father, Vladimir, proposed to the writer's mother, Yelena, as they wheeled bicycles in Vyra

# 2 3 4 f m

No, it's not a new radio station, it's the current daily guidelines for adults on drinking without putting your health at risk:

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or: a small glass of wine (9% ABV)

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

# I witnessed a Mosley riot



**L.W. Bailey watched as a blackshirt rally turned into the worst riot seen in Britain for 30 years**

The final instalment last night of a serial *Mosley* accurately featured the disastrous rally at Olympia on June 7, 1934, but cut away before the cataclysmic end. My own recollections come back vividly. I was there. The following day's newspapers described it as Britain's worst riot for 30 years.

In retrospect it was the point which turned off respectable right-wing opinion from supporting Mosley's British Union of Fascists (BUF), and was deliberately broken up by the extreme left-wing with that object in view.

At the time I was a student at University College London, where there was a strong communist movement. Many were briefly attracted. I too was young, impressionable and inclined to listen to the Left's views.

Support for the BUF in the country had been growing, fuelled by Lord Rothermere's *Daily Mail*. The fascist idea was not then so much associated with Hitler (only recently in power) as with Mussolini, in direct imitation of whom Mosley dressed his followers in black shirts. Neither movement at the time expressed anti-Semitic opinions.

The rally at Olympia's Grand Hall was given wide advance publicity and the *Daily Mail* offered free tickets to readers who sent letters under the heading "Why I like the Blackshirts". Unbeknown to the Editor, a large number were sent by diabolical lefties with the object of disrupting the meeting.

Students played an enthusiastic part, vying with each other to see how the riotous absurd letters could obtain tickets. It soon appeared that nothing, however ludicrous, could fail, for example: "I like the Blackshirts because I want to die for my country and they seem to offer the best opportunity."

Fired by curiosity rather than commitment, I sent my letter. Letters to the Rothermere press were not the only means of obtaining tickets to fill the hall, and there was obviously a concerted effort by left-wing individuals and movements to be there. As a result a substantial proportion of the audience was hostile. There were also, however, a number of respectable rightwingers who sensed here a possible peaceful but-work against the growing menace of communism.



Oswald Mosley receives the fascist salute. In direct imitation of Mussolini, he dressed his followers in black shirts and adopted military mannerisms

rather than on the speaker. Two blackshirts started to climb up the girders towards him but when they were near he broke the glass roof and crawled out.

Mosley lost his temper and made his fatal mistake, launching into a flow of virulent anti-Semitism and talking about European ghettos pouring their dregs into this country. Wildly casting his net into history, he attacked Disraeli, antagonising Conservatives who had come along to see if this movement might be useful in an anti-left alliance. A gentleman near to me exploded into anger. "Disraeli! Best Prime Minister this country ever had!" he exclaimed before marching out. Mosley, who had been a Conservative MP, had forgotten the power of the primrose.

The next day the press was universally hostile. The BUF was blamed for the violence and tagged as "un-British." Comparisons were made with the Test match against the Australians at Lord's which was happening at the same time. Low, the outstanding cartoonist of the time, had his

stopped them wearing red shirts. In the debate on the Bill, the Independent MP and author A.P. Herbert adapted Shakespeare to pronounce "a plague of both your blouses". In later years I went to many trade exhibitions at Olympia. At one I tried to describe to a younger colleague the episode in which one of the protesters shouted from the roof before breaking through the glass and getting away. "I know about that," he said. "That was my father."

After a career working on technical journals and writing radio scripts, L.W. Bailey is now a freelance writer

Colonel Blimp addressing an elongated figure of Mosley in a cartoon labelled "The Other Test match": "Gad, Sir, I don't know what game you're playing but it certainly isn't cricket."

# The ghost in the bedroom

**As a couple sue because their house is haunted, the explorer John Blashford-Snell recalls his own eerie experience**

I was not looking for anything other than a good night's sleep when I drove to the Scientific Exploration Society base in Wiltshire at midnight. The Tudor farm was bathed in moonlight, the shrubs and trees of the garden casting strange shadows. I strode to the kitchen door. "Keys in the lock!" I remembered the instructions from my friends Jim and Joan, wardens of the base and on a visit abroad.

The door swung open and warm air spilt out to greet me. The light flickered on revealing a note, a newspaper and a bottle of J&B on the kitchen table. My glass of Scotch was getting low when I heard the coughing—it was right above me. How odd, I thought, then I remembered: "It must be Michael—and I've woken him up."

Michael, Jim's teenage son, slept above the kitchen, and although his parents were out, I guessed he had come home early and gone to bed. I tiptoed to my bedroom.

Waking up with the sun, I tottered off to the bathroom. The internal walls in the farm were barely partitioned and with the creaky irregular wooden floors, every noise was audible. I could hear Michael dressing in his room and later, as I wallowed in the bath, I saw his shadow cross the frosted glass door, followed by the "clump, clump, clump" as he descended the narrow wooden stairs. As I dried myself, he returned and as he passed the door I called out "Morning, Michael." There was no reply.

I had just dressed when I heard the sound of a key in the lock and in walked Jim and Joan. "I'm sorry I

disturbed Michael last night," I said. "Michael has not been here for six weeks," replied Joan.

"Then who on earth's upstairs?" I said. "Because he's still there."

We went quickly to Michael's room. The door was closed, the bed was not even made up. The hair on the back of my neck lifted. We checked the entire house. All doors and windows were locked.



Blashford-Snell

height, ruddy complexion, 50-ish, dressed like a farmer. He wore an inquisitive smile. Then he was gone, quite literally into thin air. Jim, an ex-parachute engineer, dashed out of the room and checked the doors and windows. All were locked from inside. There was nobody else in the house.

The farm belongs to a friend of mine, so I told him of the events and he asked around. Several months later he told me of a silver-haired lady whose husband was employed on the farm some years ago. "She died in that bedroom from natural causes," he told me. "The man who Jim saw seems to be her husband. The funny thing is, he's alive and lives about 10 miles away." I had another whisky and went off to tell Jim and Joan.

Examined from *Ghostly Encounters*, April 21, by John Blashford-Snell, Robson Books, £2.95

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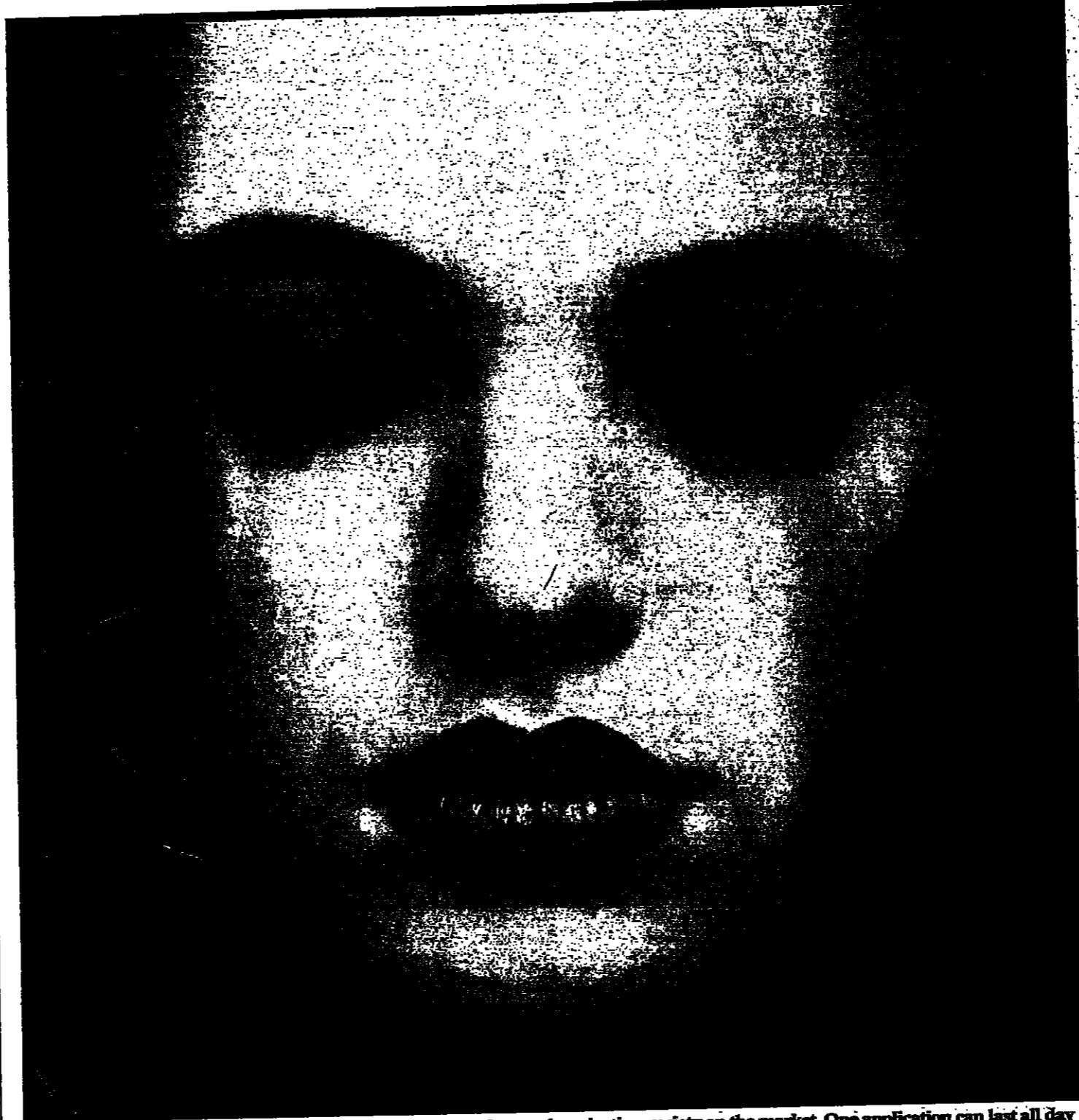
These limited edition Carlo Moretti champagne flutes make an original gift. Crafted in bizarre colour combinations with silver and gold leaf, they are individually blown, finished by hand, signed and dated. A new set is brought into production at the start of each year. £150 per glass from Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (0171-499 2823).

Babette's cufflinks, silver-plated and hand-enamelled, have already been snapped up by Channel 5's Jack Docherty and The Brand New Heavies. Babette has designed ranges for Edina Ronay, Conran's Bluebird restaurant and is the first jewellery designer to produce an exclusive range of cufflinks for Debenhams. Available from Harrods, Selfridges and House of Fraser stores, and via the Internet on www.babette-wasserman.com

HOT TIP

You may be able to lift and tuck your face, but hands are a dead giveaway of age. The answer is an overnight glove, spongy on the outside and with a latex-like polymer gel lining designed to release nourishing ingredients and prevent moisture loss. Wearing gloves in bed may be mildly eccentric, but your hands do feel wonderfully smooth the next morning. Spa Mani Moisture Restoring Gloves by Marcella Borghese, £39.50, at Selfridges, Harvey Nichols in London and Leeds. National inquiries: 01273 400085

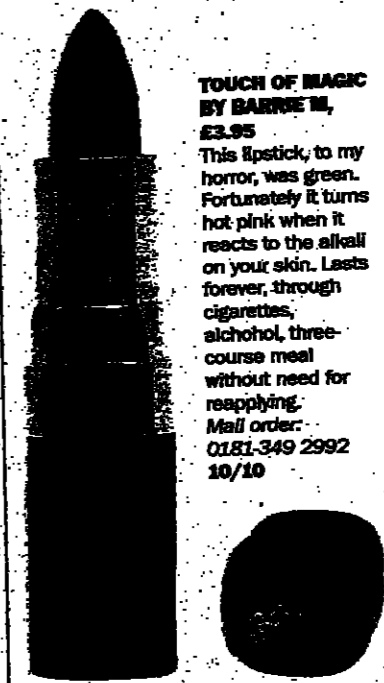
Lips with lasting appeal



Lipstick need no longer vanish in ten minutes, thanks to the new long-lasting variety on the market. One application can last all day

SIX OF THE BEST

With pouting scarlet and fuchsia lips all the rage, the difficulty is keeping the colour on your lips. Here we test the staying power of six of the best long-lasting lipsticks.



TOUCH OF MAGIC BY BARRIE W, £3.95

This lipstick, to my horror, was green. Fortunately it turns hot pink when it reacts to the saliva on your skin. Lasts forever, through cigarettes, alcohol, three-course meal without need for reapplying. Mail order: 0181-349 2992 10/10



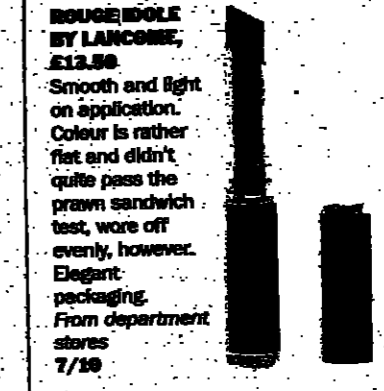
SUPERLAST CREAM LIPSTICK by Chanel, £11

Very impressive, lasts much longer than any conventional lipstick, though it won't get you through a three-course meal. Dry in texture, good even colour, great packaging. 0171-409 0933 8/10



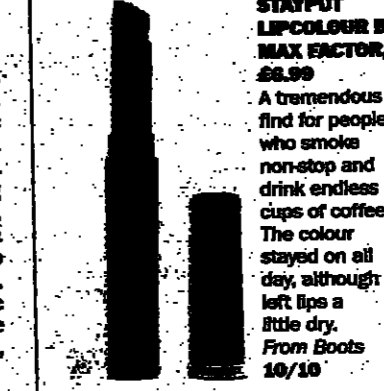
ROUGE DE ROUGE BY CHANEL, £14.50

Simply excellent. Rich creamy texture and even colour, sleek packaging and lasted until well after dinner. Chanel: 0171-493 3836 10/10



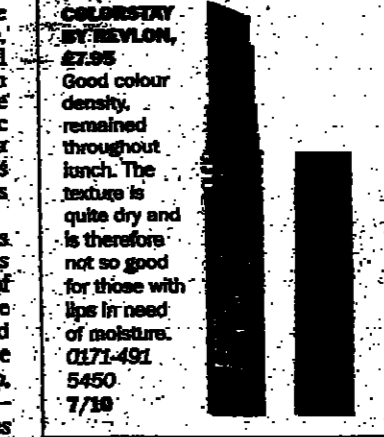
ROUGE NUDE BY LANCOME, £12.50

Smooth and light on application. Colour is rather flat and didn't quite pass the prawn sandwich test, wore off evenly, however. Elegant packaging. From department stores 7/10



STAYPUT LIPCOLOUR BY MAX FACTOR, £6.99

A tremendous find for people who smoke non-stop and drink endless cups of coffee. The colour stayed on all day, although left lips a little dry. From Boots 10/10



COLORSTAY BY BEYONC, £2.95

Good colour density, remained throughout lunch. The texture is quite dry and is therefore not so good for those with lips in need of moisture. 0172-491 5450 7/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

Love's lipsticks lost...

We have a fire drill in our house. It goes as follows: 1. Assemble son, love letters, jewellery, lipstick. 2. Tie sheets together and attach to banisters. 3. Fire. The only thing is (just hang on a second, I'll be ready in a minute), which lipstick? At the last count there were 29 of them, jumbled in the wooden bowl where I keep what you might call the examples on active service, the ones I might wear from day to day, and at least as many bundled in a bag at the back of the chest of drawers — killer crimson, mainly, with the occasional hallucinatory metallic, and an outstandingly nasty bubblegum mauve with blue glints which I remember wearing to a fancy dress party in 1985. One of the sentries outside Buckingham Palace waved to me as I made my way home through the gold and pink May dawn — presumably

under the impression that I was a being from another planet. These, I should add, are the survivors of a huge clearout a couple of months ago. If anyone were thinking of starting a lipstick museum, this would be a good place to begin. So, what is it with me and lipsticks? Certainly, you could tell quite a lot about me from examining my collection. There is the bracing copper-gold lipstick I wore (Dior's Rouge Cuivre) after an eye operation meant weeks of wearing a Captain Pugwash-style eye-patch. There is the tender pink (Clinique's Guava Stain) that I applied seconds after my son was born, and the kindly tawny (Prescriptives Indian Sugar) that lent some illusion of life to the corpse-like pallor that you acquire after being woken hourly by your infant every night. In the drawer there is at least one lipstick — Dior's Pourpre D'or, a fragile crescent of pigment clinging to a once-chic navy and white case — that is 20 years old. I bought it to wear to the first dance I ever went to, along with a milky silk Gina Fratini dress foaming with real lace and some ice-cream pink elbow-length kid gloves. I've still got them, too, and I wouldn't be seen dead in them. But I'd wear that Pourpre D'or lipstick again tomorrow, if only Dior hadn't stopped making it. It is this terrible tendency of cosmetics

houses to stop producing certain shades that lies behind what might otherwise look like a thoroughly deranged (or weirdly narcissistic) collection. If you took the tops off all my lipsticks and arranged them into a spectrum, you would find five groups: bright red, dull red, tawny, bluish pink, like a darker shade of mouth, each containing about a dozen lipsticks in minutely varying shades. In each group, one lipstick is worn to a stub, the others barely marked with the lips' imprint. What on earth is going on here?

Well, as any woman who has ever taken the most fleeting interest in cosmetics knows, every so often there floats into your life the perfect something-or-another. It might be a nail varnish, an eyeshadow or an eyeliner, but it is more likely to be a lipstick, because the colour that you apply to your mouth has such a dramatic effect on your whole aspect. The perfect lipstick bestows a pearly tinge on the complexion, gives a turquoise flash to green eyes, lends boring brown eyes a fascinating flicker of violet, even, somehow, makes your hair look a more interesting colour. Dior used to make an elusive dark pink called Mohair, neither precisely brownish, nor quite bluish, that made me feel like Jeanne Moreau. And then what happened? Well, they stopped making it.

At first, of course, one can't quite believe it. Someone, somewhere, must have some stocks left. Denial is followed, briefly, by despair, and then determination sets in. One roams the cosmetics counters with one's pathetic little stub, hoping somewhere to find a match. You might as well not bother. It is like trying to replicate love. Once it has gone, there is no bringing it back. On the other hand you might always fall in love again. This summer, has produced a particularly alluring range of pinks, from sheerest rosebud to the shockingly intense pure cyclamen beloved of Yves St Laurent. I don't suppose I'll be copying the Prada look of berry upper lip, bubblegum lower (I would if I were 20) — but I might pop up to Dickens St Jones with my 20-year-old Pourpre D'or — and see if I can find anything like it.

Travelodge advertisement featuring a photo of a family, the price £29.95 per room per night, and the headline 'Incredible Travelodge price offer'. It lists 118 participating locations and amenities like free morning newspaper, on-site restaurant, and sky TV.

Prime Health insurance advertisement with the headline 'Could Prime Health give you better cover at less cost than your current policy?' and contact number 0800 77 99 55.

Advertisement for a unique Fair Food Exchange, inviting readers to send a proof of purchase of a non-Fair trade product for a sample of a better coffee.

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# Get serious. Go blonde

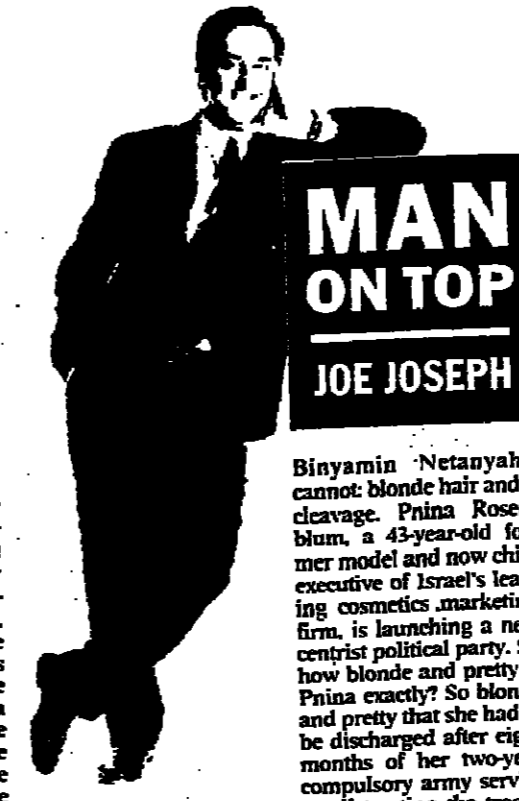
**I**f like me, you are crazy about Bach's double violin concerto in D minor, then you, too, probably can't wait to see April's issue of *Playboy*, which is celebrating the great German composer's work by following the ancient musical tradition of publishing nude photographs of Linda Lampenius. Linda is the brilliant, blonde Finnish violinist known as the "Bach Babe" who has helped many teenage boys to rediscover their love of classical music. Although acclaimed by critics, her approach to Bach (she performs in leather hotpants) is not for everyone. For example, it's probably not for gay men. But snooty music critics are wrong when they sneer that Miss Lampenius's success rests entirely on the fact that her surname looks as if it might possibly be a pornographic crossword anagram; or even on the fact that she is an attractive, busty blonde (Lampenius looks like a version of Pamela Anderson; that you could actually take home without making your cleaning lady smirk when she arrived the next morning).

**From politics to publicity, platinum is the only colour to dye for**

Bach-loving males to drool automatically. Modern audiences are much more complicated and sensitive than that. Men, in particular, will drool only if a female musician possesses other qualities, such as an instinctive empathy with Bach's rhythms, consistency, stamina and an exciting interpretation. Breasts like torpedoes always help. Not that the 27-year-old Lampenius — who was once Concert Master of the Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra in Helsinki — is the only female classical music star to flaunt her body (strangely, nobody asked Juilliard's Perleman or Yo Yo Ma to model the Björn Borg range of Lurex underwear, as Lampenius once did, let alone suggested that they slip into a swimsuit and join the cast of *Baywatch*). But the reason that, say, the exuberant British soprano Lesley Garrett is less well-known among the culturally fluent readers of *Playboy* — despite having

recently released photographs of herself naked but for a wisp of chiffon between her and the camera lens, and having appeared naked in an English National Opera performance of *Die Fledermaus* — is that she is not blonde. The violinist Vanessa-Mae Nicholson — however scantily she might dress — comes up against the same obstacle. It's not that the popularity of blondes is anything new: Hollywood was built on them. And the Romans were swooning over them long before Anita Ekberg paddled around the Trevi fountain with Marcello Mastroianni in *La Dolce Vita*. Even blonde artists such as Andy Warhol and David Hockney have tended to make a bigger splash than their contemporaries in the art world. What is novel is that marketing men have suddenly decided that the power of bloneness can be used as the spoonful of sugar that makes us swallow much stronger or more high-

brow medicine than cheesy Jean Harlow movies. The charity Age Concern last month chose to plaster the country with posters of Pearl Read — a big-breasted, 56-year-old blonde dressed in a skimpy black bra — to try to make us reconsider our views on age discrimination. Then last week the British Tourist Authority abandoned pictures of Beefeaters and red London buses and decided that the way to persuade tourists that London was the perfect holiday destination for any traveller craving history, theatre, art, culture and some of the world's best restaurants was a picture of the blonde Page Three girl Melinda Messenger alongside the high-tone message: "The bigger the boobs, the blonder the barnet, the better the babe."



**MAN ON TOP JOE JOSEPH**

Binyamin Netanyahu cannot blonde hair and a cleavage. Prima Rosenblum, a 43-year-old former model and now chief executive of Israel's leading cosmetics marketing firm, is launching a new centrist political party. So how blonde and pretty is Prima exactly? So blonde and pretty that she had to be discharged after eight months of her two-year compulsory army service because she was distracting the troops too much.

If this strategy of breathing life back into Bach, and age awareness, and British tourism and Israeli politics is

paying off, there is no reason why the marketing-obsessed Blair Government shouldn't adopt similar techniques for selling its trickier policies. Had Michael Meacher only dabbed some peroxide on his locks before joining the Countryside March last weekend, Britons would be lighting beacons in his honour in villages across Britain. No matter that his mane would have been artificial: Jean Harlow's platinum hair in *Fell's Angels* also came out of a bottle, but it still inspired millions of women to mimic her. After her film *Platinum Blonde* came out, women set up Platinum Blonde clubs across America. Why not Meacher Mania across Britain, too? Look into your own heart and ask yourself honestly: wouldn't Peter Mandelson's headbeats be cured at a stroke if he would only commission a tasteful blonde wig that could be affixed to the shiny pate of his still unloved Millennium Dome? Even blondes grow bewitched by their own bloneness: when Ruth Ellis was in Holloway prison awaiting trial, it is said that she was less anxious about her two children than about the fact that her roots were showing. Which brings us to Michael Fabricant. There is no reason why New Labour should grab all the blond glory. You can't help feeling that the blond-bobbed Fabricant could also be on the brink of a dramatic political renaissance. OK, maybe that's over-egging it for a man who has yet to make a big mark at Westminster. Let's just say political *naissance*.

# The diary of a first novel

**June 12, 1997:** Have had a novel-in-me for as long as I can remember, but so far it hasn't managed to escape. Celebrating my 32nd birthday in the South of France, I decide it's now or never. Perhaps it's the sight of yachts in Antibes harbour, or effects of too much bouillabaisse. Return home bursting with witty, sexy ideas. Or is it bouillabaisse?

**July 15:** Dimly conscious I need an Agent. Have no idea how or where to get one. Thumb through 1987 edition of *Writers and Artists Yearbook*.

**July 17:** Finally spill novel-writing beans at lunch with writer friend who not only has Agent but Publisher as well. Instead of choking over her rocket salad with mirch, she tells me flat if I am lucky, I might get a five-minute audience with Jonathan Lloyd, managing director of Curtis Brown. Letter I write to him is more carefully crafted than anything I have penned so far.

**July 20:** Jonathan calls me. He says I can go and have a chat. He seems brisk and busy. Quake at prospect of being thought time-waster.

**July 21:** Am ushered into Jonathan's office. He erodes success. Trembling, I hand over first three chapters and flinch as he rolls his eye over first few paragraphs. He says he only takes on authors likely to make lots of money, and I'm a long shot. Heart sinks.

**July 23:** Jonathan rings to say carry on. Visions of literary dinners and handbags with fat gold letters dance before my eyes. Spend hours staring at Dillon's window display. Husband sceptical about my ambitions to combine job and novel. "How are you going to write and be deputy editor of *Tatler* at the same time?" he asks. Good question.

**September:** Have answered question. Write for hour in morning before assuming *Tatler* duties, two hours in evening and all day Sunday. The last means giving up lying in bed listening to *Archers* omnibus. Of all sacrifices, this is hardest.

**October:** Husband notes our social life has ground to a halt. I point out it is better for our lives to stay in some evenings. From my point of view our near-Trappist existence is worth it. I have finished half the book and, better still, Jonathan likes it. We set Christmas as deadline. On

**Like thousands before her, Wendy Holden returned from holiday determined to write her first novel. Not only did she succeed — she also won a six-figure advance**



Wendy Holden: "Visions of literary dinners and handbags with gold letters dance before me"

way home from meeting I buy gold mug to add glamour to the gallons of Earl Grey I get through at the keyboard.

**November:** Gold mug already chipped; try not to take this as bad sign. Husband's cricket schedule, which kept him out all day every Sunday, has switched to football, which doesn't take as long. He spends half of Day of Rest tip-toeing around our tiny flat because a pin-drop disturbs my concentration, has TV on so low he needs subtitles. Am racked with guilt. Husband embarrassed at number of dinner invitations we have turned down lately, and by my unwillingness to stage return matches. He stays at work longer and is always in a meeting. Or at lunch. Or having a drink with someone. Even for a lobbyist.

which he is, this is excessive. Worried marriage is about to hit rocks, so try to involve husband in creative process. Walking round Hampstead Heath one Saturday, tell him of hilarious plot twist I have just thought of. He looks at me in disgust: "That's puerile."

**December:** Disaster strikes. Husband breaks hand on football field and is no longer out of house on Sundays. Worse, injury means he can no longer iron. There is one bright side: in order to make faintest impression on million or so shirts he gets through weekly, I need an hour on Sunday mornings. Ecstatic reunion with *Archers* omnibus. Christmas party season extends even to me. I have some ill-advised evenings out. Ill-advised in that I was ill afterwards. After six months of purdah my social skills have deteriorated so much that I am crippled with shyness and drink like a fish to compensate.

**December 23:** Finish second half of novel on time. Spend Christmas worrying about what Jonathan thinks.

**December 28:** He likes it! But I must tighten it up. Wish I could do same for self. Legacy of seven months of writing is a bottom broader than Broadway and thighs that rub together. Beneath previously taut jawline, beginnings of double chin visible.

**January 31, 1998:** Finish tightening up — books, that is. Have gone even more to seed personally, and now view "far" items in wardrobe as standard attire. Final creative struggle is with ancient printer. Churning out a 100,000-word novel is way beyond its capacity. Spoonfeed it each sheet individually, which takes all night. Wait for Jonathan's verdict. To take my mind off things, visit my parents in Yorkshire. Visit Bronie Parsonage Museum in Haworth. It is raining. Reflect on fact that Bronies knocked out world-class novels with nothing but bad weather to inspire them.

**February 5:** Jonathan is going to auction book! He has targeted six publishers. Stomach shoots through floor.

**February 13 (Friday):** Jonathan rings to say he has sent manuscripts out. Offers could take three to four weeks — or come in as soon as Monday. Prospect of month of nail-biting agony looms. Try not to think about inauspicious date. Or the gold mug, which is now

held together with Superglue.

**February 15:** Someone could be reading my manuscript right this minute. So tetchy I decide (post-*Archers*) to get out of London. Sighing husband accompanies me to Euston, where we entrain for first vaguely rustic destination. It turns out to be Berkhamsted.

**February 16:** 10.55am. Jonathan calls: Headline has put in eye-wideningly enormous, six-figure, pre-emptive bid for two-book deal. It will be on table until 5pm, by which time the others must make up their minds. I rush to loo, shut cubicle door and jump up and down, emitting squeals. Heaven knows what person in next cubicle thinks. Walk around Hanover Square at lunchtime, too excited to eat. A bottle of Krug from Headline is on my desk when I get back. I practically explode.

**5.05pm:** Jonathan says other publishers are begging for extensions to get their bids together, but time's up. Headline is first past auction post. Could I have lunch with them tomorrow, asks Jonathan.

**February 17:** Accompanied by "my agent", I meet "my editor", Jane. We go to Villandry in Marylebone High Street and have fish and chips and champagne. Does life get any better? One snag. Headline wants new title. "No problem," I say confidently.

**February 18, 19, 20:** Can't think of new title.

**February 21:** Still can't think

of new title. We go to Derbyshire in hope that fresh air will clear my brain. Pump husband for puns all way. He pretends to be asleep. He never bargained for this when we got married five years ago.

**February 22:** "I'll throw myself off that cliff if you don't think of a title," I scream at husband as we scramble over High Peak. He rolls his eyes: "Why don't you call it *Simply Divine*?" I stop. I stare. *Simply Divine*. It sounds quite good.

**February 23:** Jonathan likes it, everyone at Headline likes it. *Simply Divine* it is. It is to come out in hardback in January. I am to write its successor, *Bad Hair Day*, by Christmas. But at least, I tell husband, I have thought of title already. He smiles wanly.

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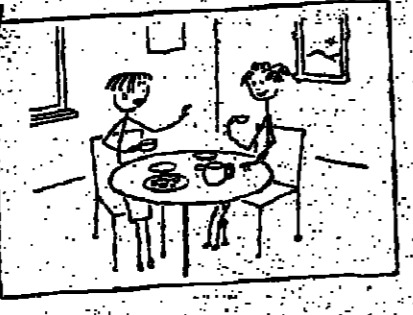
- Dr Kim Howells, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Education and Employment
- Mary Chapman, Chief Executive, Investors in People UK
- Chris Humphries, Chief Executive, TEC National Council
- Martin Cross, Chair, Joint Council of National Vocational Awarding Bodies
- Prof. Alan Tuckett, Director, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)

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**THE STICKLERS**  
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OH COME ONE YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN

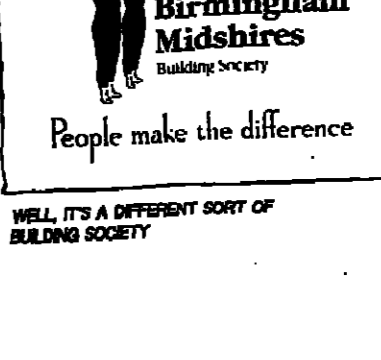
HE JUST WOULDN'T BELIEVE A CHIEF EXECUTIVE WOULD DO THAT

WHAT? YOU MEAN IT'S TRUE?

ENCURE ME!

ONLY KIDDING... BUT IT IS DIFFERENT YOU MUST ADMIT

WELL, IT'S A DIFFERENT SORT OF BUILDING SOCIETY



# For the best of Britannia, go to Berlin

## John Lloyd reveals a new all-out campaign to rebrand the nation

The Government is about to embark on a serious exercise, as serious as any in its ten months in office. It will try to change the way we look to others, and the way in which we regard ourselves. It will spend hundreds of millions of pounds, reform institutions and seek to reinvent our very attitudes to refresh our image abroad. In doing so, it will try to reassemble our sense of national — and personal — worth. It will, in another New Labour word, seek to *rebrand Britain*.

In the next few weeks, Tony Blair and Robin Cook will be launching Panel 2000, a committee of ministers and luminaries from the creative world, to "refocus" government on the new British image.

The first symbols of rebranded Britain will be in Berlin: a brand new Embassy — commissioned by Douglas Hurd but now conscripted to the rebranding project — and a British Council building, renovated by British architects and designers. These two showcases in the heart of Europe will display the best ideas and artefacts to emerge from Blair's Britain, as proof of what is a general belief in new Labour circles — that British architects and designers are the most innovative in the world. This belief lies behind the Prime Minister's confidence that the Millennium Dome will be a success.

The origins of all this are remarkable. Last September, a young man named Mark Leonard wrote a pamphlet for the Demos think-tank called *Britain TM*. It combined opinion research, scholarly analysis, commercial strategies and public relations to fashion a message that the reality of New Britain diverged alarmingly from the image of Old Britain still adhered to abroad. Unlike countries which have successfully modernised their image — such as Australia, Ireland and Spain — Britain remained mired in a stereotype of bad food, aloof manners and class conflict, all clad in a tattered Barbour jacket.

The pamphlet held that all successful countries tell narratives about and to themselves. Britain's narratives had been stuck in old grooves. Even after the braiding shake-up delivered by Margaret Thatcher, its image was "too nostalgic, too bound up with empire, too exclusive".

Mr Leonard proposed six new stories which "reach back into our history and project forward into the future". They bolster six positive images about Britain: that it is a hub, a bridge, a web of connections; that it is quirky, non-conformist and creative; that it is hybrid, diverse and happily mongrel; that it is entrepreneurial, service-orientated and inventive; that it is peacefully revolutionary; and that it is fair, solidaristic and caring.

The pamphlet has been profound. It has sparked off, or assisted, speeches by the Prime Minister (including his "New Britain" speech to last year's party conference), by Gordon Brown, Peter Mandelson, and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General.

One of its ideas has already been acted upon. The Foreign Office has appointed "cultural

ambassadors" from the ranks of designers, architects and cultural entrepreneurs to its major embassies. Their brief is to assist British business with sharper presentation and a higher cultural profile.

The British Council, which has a budget of more than £400 million, is revamping itself to act as the herald of a new, stylish, entrepreneurial and open Britain. Its senior officials have taken *Britain TM* as their seminal text in shedding the council's image as a purveyor of Shakespeare and Jane Austen in favour of a sharp, engaged communicator of New British values.

Next month the Foreign Office will launch a campaign using posters, videos, speeches, presentations and conferences to find "a better fit between our heritage and what we are becoming". This spring offensive, coming in the midst of Britain's presidency of the European Union, is an ambitious attempt to raise the country's game abroad, and inject into its own culture a renewed sense of pride.

Behind this is a calculation — that a new identity will be good for the economy. As Chris Smith never tires of pointing out, the culture business produces and exports billions. We have seen some (often tacky) examples: the pop stars at No 10 and the Conran designs for Canary Wharf during the British-French summer.

But the tentative phase is ending. Now the Government is to go "all-out".

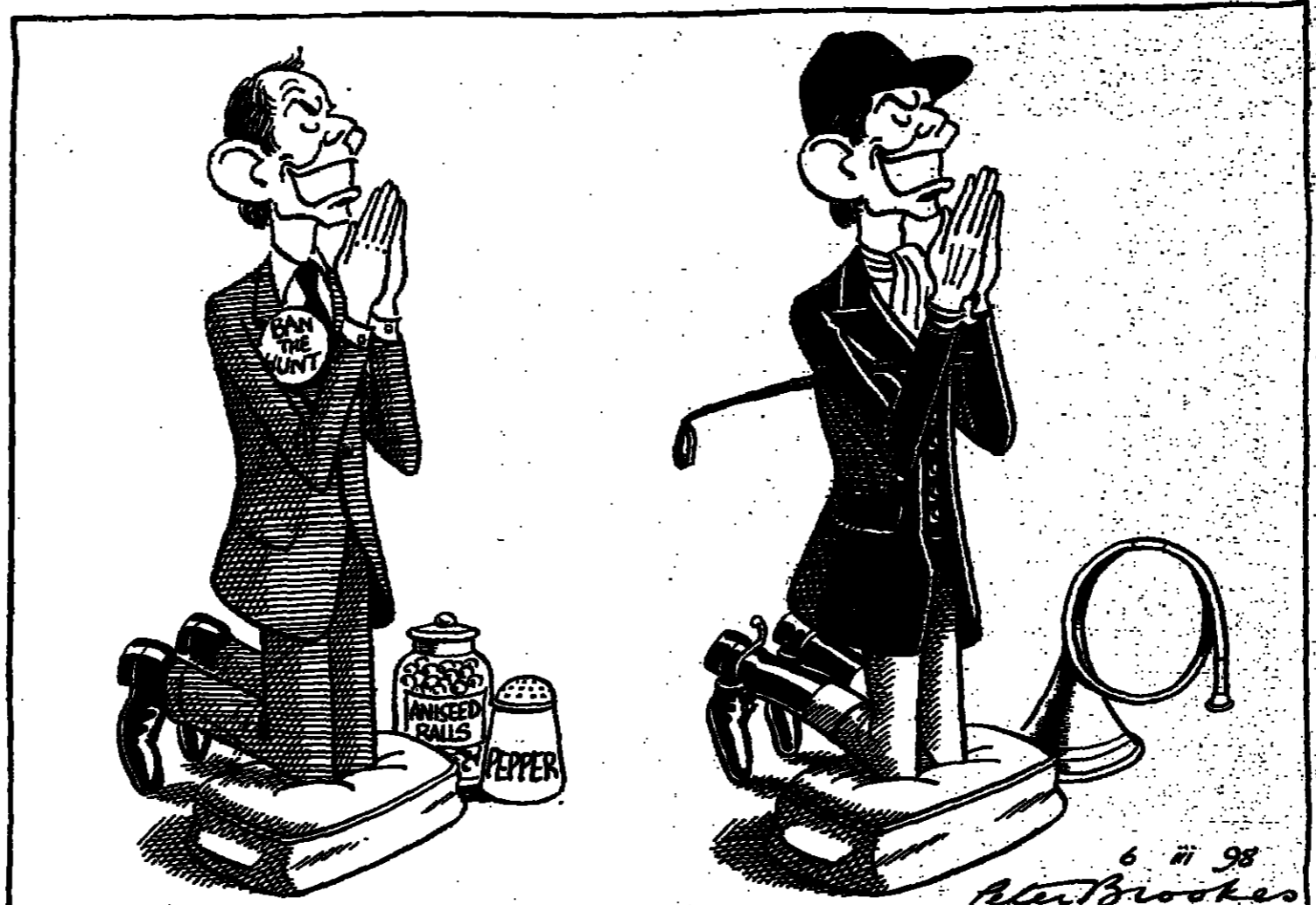
There is also a belief behind it. Mr Leonard, like all the new Labourites, believes there is enough substance to sustain the new image. "Successful national rebranding exercises worked only because the new identity fitted with a changing reality," he wrote. This is not a lick of paint over a rusting surface; it is the surface catching up with the essence. New Labour really believes we are fair, creative, inventive, reforming and entrepreneurial. It wants to shout about it.

It wants us to believe it too. Nothing more excites the Prime Minister and his trustees than what they often call private *the Guardian* mentality — identifying that great newspaper (which they do not think at all great) with a whingeing, self-hating, anti-British mentality, one which views every effort to praise our country or to engage in ambitious projects as useless, chauvinistic or doomed. Mr Blair's speech on the Dome last week had an extended and think-skinned passage on this.

The rebranding project will make war on all that. It is designed to be more self-confident, patriotic and proud than even Margaret Thatcher — yet to blend that with an open, welcoming attitude designed to win friends and influence customers.

Next month, we will proclaim that other nations are lucky to have us around, and that we will be glad to share ourselves with them. Like much of new Labour, hubris lurks under its ambition. But, for sure, it beats whingeing.

The author is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.



MR. BLAIR'S CONVERSION...

# Blair's leap of faith

### Most Prime Ministers are agnostics; this one may already be a Catholic at heart

The Labour Party press officer told them they should come into the church — all of them — and photograph the Blairs. They were told they could use flash and that they could even stand on the pews...

This was *The Daily Telegraph* last autumn responding to complaints from readers that it had invaded Mr and Mrs Blair's privacy by photographing them at prayer. The newspaper advised the Prime Minister to observe Matthew's Gospel, "enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray in secret. An effective shot. But an unfair one. The man is no fool. This is 20th-century Britain, not 1st-century Jerusalem. Many British voters do not like politicians who believe, Mr Blair knows as much. The reason he goes to church before a conference is that he thinks true believers should. The reason he does not instruct his bouncers to keep the press away is simple: Christian witness.

A Catholic idea, witness has been embraced by Protestants. It is a matter of showing the world you are not ashamed of your faith; developed when to profess belief in public, far from leading social cachet, exposed a belief to barn.

This is just such an era. Advisers will have told Mr Blair to shut up — and fitfully he resolves it. He realises his Christianity is a political embarrassment, but cleaves to it anyway — and if that attracts adverse notice he grits his teeth, submits to God's will, and takes the flak.

A non-believer myself, I respect the Prime Minister's courage. It took guts to join the God Squad in 1970s Oxford; joss-sticks yes, incense-censers no. With all his being, this Prime Minister really believes.

In that he is a most unusual leader. I suspect a large majority of Prime Ministers have been agnostics, a substantial number atheists, and only a minority have been convinced Christians. Few have shown any sign of being animated by that all-pervading Christian faith which is the best of true religion. The demands faith makes upon a man's life are very strong; acceptance of them should be apparent. It is interesting to ask how many of our leaders have — as a Christian would put it — really let God into their hearts.

Let us attempt a sketchy survey of Prime Ministers. I started by chatting to Lord Jenkins of Hillhead; we agreed that the 18th century is

difficult to reconnoitre. Religious enthusiasm was so very unfashionable. So I begin 164 years ago, with Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister, Viscount Melbourne.

Lord M was probably an atheist, certainly an agnostic, and a pessimist through and through. He found the Church rather silly. "Damn it all, another bishop dead — I verily believe they die to vex me." He had his retarded son instructed in the works of the Scottish sceptic David Hume. "While I cannot be regarded as a pillar, I must be regarded as a buttress of the Church, because I support it from the outside," he remarked. "Things have come to a pretty pass when religion is allowed to invade the sphere of private life."

Lord Jenkins suspects that Sir Robert Peel had a straightforward Protestant faith. "Peel was said to have gone beyond the demands of observance normal in the first half of the 19th century and to have been on the threshold of private devoutness," he writes in *Gladstone*. Peel was followed by Lord John Russell.

Like most Russells, he impressed others with a certain scepticism, though he had a firm underpinning of belief. Of Palmerston, who can say? Snuffers can repent, certainly, but an unrepentant libertine?

I am equally unsure about the Earl of Aberdeen, who was interested enough to involve himself in Church controversy, but was cool in his outward faith. Lord Derby likewise, a Prime Minister of intellectual depth, took a sustained interest in religious matters. So "no" to Melbourne, "probably" to Peel, "probably not" to Russell — and an open verdict on Palmerston, Aberdeen and Derby.

Which brings us to Disraeli. I am hardly the first to be seized by a conviction which I cannot substantiate, that Disraeli hovered between agnosticism and atheism. "Sensible men are all of the same religion," runs the exchange in *Endymion*. "And, pray, what is that?" inquired the Prince.

"Sensible men never tell."

Disraeli's father, Isaac, had converted from Judaism. I am putting Benjamin down as an emphatic "no". Gladstone is an equally emphatic "yes". The unbeliever John Morley called faith "the biographic cue" to Gladstone's life, printing "god" with a small "g" and "Gladstone" with a big one. A High Church Anglican with the evangelist's zeal of a nonconformist, Gladstone's position shows parallels with Tony Blair's.

"Although his long life spanned a century which saw the gradual loosening of ties of orthodoxy and disbelief of religious doubt and disbelief, Gladstone's personal faith remained unshaken..." The overriding sense of God's providence "never left him. He held to a conservative and dogmatic Christianity, never wavering in his commitment to it, nor tiring in his defence of it when it conflicted with temper of the age," wrote Berry Butler in *Gladstone: Church, State and Tractarianism*.

That Rosebery was probably having an affair with his private secretary, Viscount Drumlanrig, the brother of Lord Alfred Douglas, Oscar Wilde's lover) is no assurance of agnosticism, but "probably not", I'll hazard. But Lord Cranborne tells me that his ancestor, Victoria's last Prime Minister, had a cool mind but a quiet and firm Christianity.

So "probably" to Salisbury — but "probably not" to Balfour, who was reputed to be an atheist, wrote *A Defence of Philosophic Doubt*, and struggled all his life with questions of faith and science. His successor at No 10, Henry Campbell-Bannerman, remarked on his deathbed to his successor, Herbert Asquith: "Well, rest again." But I doubt whether Asquith believed that. "A pretty solid old skeptic, really, I'd think," said Lord Jenkins.

As to Lloyd George — that "siren-footed bard, utterly detached from our notions of good and evil" — he certainly enjoyed Welsh hymn-singing and the language of the Bible. But "no", I'm afraid. And Bonar Law? "Probably not". But "probably" to

Balfour, who professed a private faith. "On prayer — I have become increasingly dependent," he said in 1939. I know of no reason to suppose that Ramsay MacDonald, who wrote romantic poems to a Viennese lady friend, was much interested in religion; Neville Chamberlain (brought up as a Unitarian) strikes me as actively uninterested.

Winston Churchill despised God. He had an abiding belief in Providence and Destiny, sometimes seeming to confuse both with himself. Clement Attlee told his biographer, Kenneth Harris, that he had no faith. There is no evidence of any lively belief on Anthony Eden's part. Harold Macmillan took a somewhat theatrical interest in the Church, toying once with the idea of converting to Roman Catholicism.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home comes as a surprise. There is no doubt of his private devotion. "I couldn't do without it," he said. Those who know him "speak of a calm personal attitude, which he never tried to impose on others."

I think Harold Wilson had no clear religious convictions, though he claimed to. His wife Mary's comment is telling: "Religion was part of his tradition." As to James Callaghan, I would not expect so cautious a man to believe anything shocking, but his career is marked by a mellowing and courteous pessimism.

It is impertinent of me to say so, but I do not believe that Edward Heath is someone to whose life, Christian belief is central. Which brings me to Margaret Thatcher.

She would not be frank on such a subject. But when I was a clerk answering her letters from the public, she received one asking for a personal affirmation of a belief in the afterlife. I sent her the letter for a reply, which she wrote by hand. "Christians belief in the after-life, and I am a Christian" — an oddly legalistic response. John Major would tell you that he is a Christian, and he is certainly not un-Christian. But friends report persistent difficulty in getting him into a church.

All of which makes Tony Blair quite out-of-the-run of our Prime Ministers. Not since Gladstone has Britain been governed by a man of such fierce and public faith. And before Mr Blair, Gladstone stood almost alone. I have no doubt Mr Blair will convert to Catholicism. He may — in all but outward show — have done so already.

## Matthew Parris



● MOHAMMED SARWAR, has raised a question about police costs. The Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, who had the whip withdrawn after the police began investigating him over accusations of perverting the course of justice and election fraud, asked Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary: "What recent representations has he received regarding administrative burdens on the police?"

### Block booking

I HAVE every sympathy with Earl Spencer. It must be hard, in this democratic age, for the scion of an ancient house not to put his foot in it, however hard he tries. The dashing lord wants to reassure the world that he is not cashing in on the concert next summer in memory of his sister, Diana, Princess of

Wales, in the family deer park at Aitcliff. So he showed up at the booking office to purchase some tickets for his extended family. A minion meekly explained the rules stating that sales were rationed to a mere four tickets per person. Spencer expressed strong surprise that the limit should be applied to him — after all, the bash was in his back garden. A PR flunky quickly stepped forward to cool the encounter. The lord has now informed his family they will have to apply for their own tickets.

● WILLIAM HAGUE'S famous baseball cap, flouted at a theme park to persuade us how groovy he is, has found a new home. It was



auctioned at a Conservative Party bash at London's Lansdowne Club. I am thrilled to disclose that the kepsake raised £500.

### Hunter at bay

ROGER SCRUTON enjoys living dangerously. The writer, philosopher and arch-defender of foxhunting is recuperating at home in Wiltshire from a broken collarbone after falling from his horse during his pursuit of the uneatable. He describes such painful mishaps, however, as an essential part of the sport.

"The point of hunting is that it is dangerous," he tells me. "People ought to take more risks. If one doesn't, one becomes less than human. Cheerful risk-taking brings out all the best human qualities." Scruton hopes to be out again with the Beaufort on his horse, Barney, in ten days. I am sure the foxes will appreciate the ceasefire, however temporary.

● PIERCE BROSINAN is expected to bid for Ian Fleming's passport when it comes up for sale at Phillips later this month. The document, numbered 777, inspired the author who created James Bond to come up with the 007 codename for the fictitious secret agent. Commentar Fleming used the passport



Bond girl Izabella Scorupco

in 1941 when he was a young naval intelligence officer working undercover in Spain as part of Operation Goldeneye. Brosnan, who made his debut as Bond in Goldeneye along with Izabella Scorupco, seems to be developing a taste for Fleming memorabilia; he has already bought the gold-plated typewriter on which was written the first draft of *Casino Royale*.

EDWARD WELSH

# Mitre been

A WELSH bishop, tipped as the front-runner to take over at Southwark Cathedral, has withdrawn his candidacy because he fears his views on homosexuality will trigger an evangelical backlash. The action of the Right Rev Rowan Williams, Bishop of Monmouth, shows attempts by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, to draw a line in the sand about the Church of England's stance on the issue is widening the gap between its liberal and traditionalist wings. Evangelicals have bombarded Carey with letters urging him not to support Williams' appointment since the Southwark bishopric became vacant late last year.



As a Professor of Theology at Oxford in the 1980s, Williams set up the Institute for the Study of Christianity and Sexuality. Last October he contributed to a book of essays setting out his views on the subject. Once Williams became aware of the hostility towards his appointment, however, I gather he made it known that he would prefer to stay in the Welsh Valleys. He was particularly disturbed by the passions aroused in the North East late last year by the appointment of the Right Rev Martin Wharton as Bishop of Newcastle, who had announced: "Homosexuality within a loving, permanent relationship is no sin. Two parishes dominated by evangelicals in the diocese declared they would not accept his episcopal

authority. The Rev David Hollway, of Reform, an evangelical body, says: "Williams would not be appropriate. His position does not reflect the teachings of the Church of England."

But the Rev Richard Kyrke, general secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, said: "Dr Carey doesn't understand that there are many people who are lesbian and gay people. He has turned this one issue into a test of loyalty. This high-risk strategy is bound to backfire. We don't like having a gun held to our heads."

## Philip Howard



### Ford Focus? Even Mr Toad would poop-poop the name

The naming of cars is an expensive business. Apparently it cost a cool-half million for the onomastic psychologists at Ford to come up with Focus as the mark for its successor to the Escort. For some reason *jeune* rumor at the office skidded out of control that Fusion (with dismal connotations of the hydrogen bomb and metals fusing under intense heat) was to be its name. Some motor-industry soid-mechanic must have whispered two-syllables beginning with 'F'. And the announcement from the Geneva Motor Show was unambiguously heralded and delayed, as though we were waiting for the announcement of a new opera by Mozart.

Fords is nearly as silly a name as Fusion. Its basic meaning is not to do with geometry, nor squinting at the optician's chart, nor headlights focusing on car's eyes. Nor are focus groups, the new politician's substitute for leadership and decision, the key. Originally Focus meant hearth and home for the Romans, the place where you kept your household gods or the trinkets and dolls that cabbies dangle dangerously on their windcreens. You might just as well call a car Fiatney because it gets you nowhere.

Other candidates for the name of the new car were Jazz and Bolero, which conform to the auturule that cars should have names that sound swinging. Icon was ruled out, not because it has become a cliché that is generally misapplied, but the meanings of *con* in French, apart from the reference to the plausible trade of automobile salesmen, were taboo. Apart from its vulgar application as noun to the female genitalia, as adjective (*focus means thick* "It's as thick as my short planks"). A similar prudish fear of misapprehension forced Rolls-Royce to change the name of its Silver Mist for the German market, where *Mist* means something stinkier and smeltier even than Scottish hilt! The 'NGA' had to be renamed for Spanish-speaking markets where it means "It does not go". On a different track, Bird's Eye had almost launched a brand of lido-ice of fish in butter under the title of "Cod Foces", when somebody gave the marketing team a lecture on Renaissance costume.

In the naming of cars, the suffix '-a' is the engine, Fiesta, Vectra, Sierra, Tigra, et *multa*, and also just announced at Geneva, the new Toyota "Corolla". Corolla is a botanical term for the inner circle or whorl of the floral envelope. Toyota should really be Toyota. But its inventor, and eponym, Sakichi Toyota, was superstitious. Toyota takes ten characters in Japanese, whereas Toyota takes only eight. And eight is a lucky number for the Japanese.

Another law of the science of naming cars is that sports connotations shift in boxes on wheels: Golf and Polo, Corina, and its winner-winning rival, the Triumph Dolomite. Exotic names are supposed to sell cars: Corniche, Espace and Monden. Other cars attract by thrusting (Probe and Discovery) or leaping (Saguar and Rover). Few like the pretty little Ka. Few witty enough to make both a pun and a rare motoring literary allusion to the most famous snake in literature.

A striking name is overrated. Few names could have been more plonking originally than Rolls-Royce, Alfa-Romeo, Bristol-Bentley and Volvo. But as with people, the car makes the name, not the name the car. But a dull name does not necessarily make a good car. Ford named its car for the Fifth Edsel, after the tsar of the Ford dynasty. Half the models sold proved defective. The buyer could own a car with any or all of these features: doors that would not close, bonnets and boots that wouldn't open, hooters that stuck, brakes that failed, and buttons that would not push with three of you trying... In a stroke of marketing genius, the Edsel, one of the biggest, most lavish cars ever built, coincided with a period when people wanted economy cars. *Time* magazine opined: "It was a classic case of the wrong car for the wrong market at the wrong time."

One motoring correspondent compared the Edsel's sales graph to an extremely dangerous black piste. He added that, so far as he knew, there was only one case of an Edsel ever being stolen. But if Ford, Toyota or any of them have that amount of dash to spend on the poetry of car names, I apply for the job herewith and now.

ALKAN I.M.I.

PIER P...S

WATERON I



## BALKAN EMERGENCY

### Time to reactivate America's 'Christmas warning' to Belgrade

Force is again outpacing diplomacy in the Balkans. Tanks and helicopters were used in yesterday's assault by Serb forces on a dozen villages in the Drenica region of Kosovo. The Yugoslav Army, which has not hitherto been ordered into action in Kosovo, was reported to have joined in the operation. Such a decision could only be taken by Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb leader.

If the army's involvement is confirmed, that will reveal even more about his intention to rely on force to suppress unrest in the province than his brusque dismissal of Robin Cook yesterday in Belgrade. Mr Cook, who was acting in the name of the European Union, failed to win assent even to the modest request to establish an EU presence in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. Mr Milosevic, who has never showed the slightest flexibility on the Kosovo question, met his appeal for a political solution by repeating that this was an internal affair and that outsiders should mind their own business. Mr Cook came away speaking of his "very grave concern". His warnings that rump Yugoslavia risked falling still further behind the rest of Europe had, predictably, no more effect on Mr Milosevic than a light shower on a duck's back.

In Pristina, where Mr Cook did not set foot, whatever moderation remained among Kosovo's Albanian majority is fast evaporating. Every shot fired by Serb forces threatens thousands to the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army and weakens support for Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of Kosovo's Democratic League who has tried and failed for nine years to get Belgrade to end military rule there and negotiate. The Western strategy, insofar as there is one, is to persuade Mr Rugova to abandon any claim to independence, in return for the restoration of the autonomous status that Mr Milosevic abolished in 1989. But it seems doubtful that words alone can place a "diplomatic shield" round the beleaguered Mr Rugova before it is too late. Mr Rugova has appealed for an "immediate international presence in all forms" to prevent "panic". His voice should be heard.

The EU will have no influence unless it is seen to be acting together with the United States. Mr Cook's decision to convene an emergency session of the six-nation Contact Group on former Yugoslavia is also wise; but there can be no certainty that Russia will play a constructive role. In Bosnia, Moscow has continued to work closely with the West despite its anger over Nato enlargement, but Yevgeni Primakov's reluctance to commit himself to coming is a bleak augury. Before that meeting, three steps should be taken.

Plans to phase down the UN Preventive Deployment Force in neighbouring Macedonia should be put sharply into reverse, urgent talks about reinforcing it should be opened with President Gligorovic. In Belgrade, Nato should talk in the blindest terms to the high command of the Yugoslav Army. It should be left in no doubt that war in Kosovo would present an intolerable danger to regional peace. That message can, to be effective, have only one meaning: the reactivation of former President Bush's cabled "Christmas warning" to Mr Milosevic back in 1992.

That warning, issued at the height of the Bosnian war, was a measure of America's fears of a full-scale Balkan war if fighting spread to Kosovo. It said that in the event of conflict, the United States was prepared to use military force against the Serbs. America's Bosnian envoy, Robert Gelbard, has said that the emphasis for now is on increasing diplomatic pressure, but that "US policy has not changed" and that Washington will use "every appropriate tool we have at our command". President Clinton, who is in the process of extracting congressional assent, and funding, for the continued American military presence in Bosnia, will be understandably reluctant to confirm Mr Gelbard's statement. But he should do so. Mr Milosevic listened in 1992, when he was far stronger in military, economic and even political terms than he is today. It is probably the only message he will listen to now. In this fast deteriorating and perilous situation, readiness to use force offers the best prospect of a non-military solution.

## PEER PRESSURE

### Tories should talk about House of Lords reform

The clandestine contacts between Lord Irvine of Lairg and Viscount Cranborne have caused disquiet inside the Labour Party. Its supporters see neither need nor reason for a manifesto commitment to be subject to inter-party negotiation. That discomfit is relatively muted compared with the reaction of some in conservative circles, outraged that their party might be ready to abandon the hereditary principle. Although such flexibility could bring enhanced influence over the character and composition of a future chamber, this will be deemed inconsequential. William Hague will be accused of outright betrayal.

There are echoes here of the arguments that surrounded the Parliament Act in 1911. A section of the Conservative Party wanted to fight to the death to preserve the political powers of the peerage. Their threats forced the Liberal Government to extract a promise from the King that, if necessary, he would create a thousand new peers to push the measure through. The Tory leadership then finally accepted the need for compromise. If they had not done so, the hereditary peers would have disappeared from the House of Lords 87 years ago. Not only were they preserved but the Conservatives adapted to the new circumstances of mass democracy.

The Government was right to initiate a dialogue with the Opposition. Mr Hague was equally wise to respond in positive terms. He has already acknowledged that constitutional reform is inevitable and that his task is to make the best of it. The hereditary peerage is not the issue on which the Tories should draw a line in the sand. He should resist the advice of those who now favour entering talks only as a means of

obstruction or prevarication. This would encourage the Government to implement its original programme without adjustment. A chamber so dependent on Prime Ministerial patronage would not be an attractive option.

Mr Hague should outline his own alternative. There is much he can suggest that is consistent with traditional Conservative instincts. He should argue that a reformed Upper House must retain a very substantial independent element. There is little point in the House of Lords simply duplicating the House of Commons. Nor would this assist the process of legislative scrutiny that must be the primary role of a revising body. This would imply that at least a proportion of its membership would still be appointed. The Prime Minister, however, must not continue to serve as the sole nominating commission. Mr Hague should insist that a reconstituted House of Lords must have increased influence.

A Conservative case of this kind would inspire widespread sympathy. The Government would have to decide whether it was interested in the House of Lords solely because of its dislike of the hereditary peerage or for more substantial constitutional reasons. This would prompt a rather divisive discussion within the Cabinet: some members would rather retain the unchallenged authority that an overwhelming majority in the House of Commons currently offers. It is possible that the entire project might be placed on the political back burner; if it did proceed, it would at least produce a package that retained the best aspects of the present system. There is little chance of that happening if Mr Hague adopts the posture of outright opposition.

## WATER ON THE MOON

### There might be a Man on the Moon after all

Ever since Galileo gazed at the Moon's surface through a telescope, man has dreamt of finding life on Earth's mysterious nightly companion. But when Apollo 11 finally touched down, the hopes and jokes about lunar beings finally died: the Moon appeared as arid and uninhabitable as it is beautiful. Yesterday, however, those hopes flickered back into life, with the announcement that ice has been discovered at the Moon's poles. It is unmeasured, inaccessible and so far unexplored by Lunar Prospector.

But the discovery alone changes all scientific assumptions. With the presence of water, the basic building block of life, creation may indeed extend beyond this lonely planet.

How the water got there is a mystery. Astronomers believe that it was brought, like some water to the Earth, by comets. The craters holding the water are never exposed to the Sun, and so it would not be broken down by ultraviolet light. On the part of the Moon permanently exposed to the Sun, gasses would have escaped the weak gravitational pull. But if there is ice locked into the eternal night, it could have come after the satellite craters, it could have come and built up in the only locations where it is locked in place.

Frozen lunar ice does not in itself make the Moon an ideal new colony for restless man. But it does make the age-old dream of

permanent settlement less impractical. For ice can be mined, melted to form water and the constituents broken down to oxygen and fuel. With these three basic elements of existence, civilisation could indeed be transplanted. And even if there were not many pioneers willing to suffer the boredom of living in a bubble, temporary bases would prove valuable for the further exploration of space. Scientific missions could venture out to the remotest regions of our solar system.

For a discovery as momentous as yesterday's, the scientific quest appears to have been remarkably lackadaisical. The first signs of water were found almost four years ago, but little was made of this. Perhaps too many people had heard too many stories of canals on Mars, or microbes in meteorites. Astronomers are cautious by nature, though hindsight rocks their solemnity. In an address to the British Association in 1839 Dionysius Lardner said: "Men might as well project a voyage to the Moon as attempt to employ steam navigation across the stormy North Atlantic Ocean." Fifty years later the Victorians laughed at his pessimism on steam navigation; a century on and we smile at the ordinariness of lunar exploration. Today the smiles were even broader. For all those confident dismissals of life on the silver Moon may now also be out of date.

## Peace role for EU in Middle East

From Lord Hylton

Few responsible people approve of Palestinians who call for Iraqi anthrax attacks on Tel Aviv or who smuggle arms across the Dead Sea, or into Gaza. Such behaviour becomes understandable, however, if one takes account of the fact that people tend to become violent when their basic needs for personal security and collective identity are denied over long periods.

Apart from the admirable humanitarian work of Unrwa (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), Israel and the world powers have done little for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, some of whom led their homes voluntarily whilst others were expelled in 1948 and 1967 from Israel and the West Bank (letters, March 3 and 4). The refugees now in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza and elsewhere have enjoyed little security or identity since those days.

Palestinians living in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza have seen settlements planted by Israel on land formerly theirs, connected by a massive road network which is also used by Israel's Army. The settlements, and Israel proper, absorb the lion's share of the water resources of the occupied territory.

When the fourth Geneva Convention has been disregarded and the 1993 Oslo accords are not kept, is it surprising that violence is a renewed temptation?

The time has surely come for dispassionate analysis with the parties concerned of the basic human needs of Israelis, Palestinians and Arabs. If a shared understanding of their needs for coexistence and symbiosis could be achieved, there would be a basis for permanent peace. The way would be open for the "fertile crescent" to flourish once more.

We seem to be far from peace, and time presses. In this situation, could the European Union persuade all concerned to examine the real needs and to apply problem-solving methods? Is it able to mobilise truly independent facilitators for such a process?

Yours faithfully,  
HYLTON,  
House of Lords,  
March 4.

## Interest rate decisions

From Mr P. J. Bull

Sir, Professor Sidney Pollard and Lord Thomas of Macclesfield, in their letters of February 18, are both concerned about the harmful consequences of UK interest rate decisions taken by a small independent committee at the Bank of England. Their concerns need to be projected to the European Union scene of the future where decisions will be taken by a bigger, politically independent committee in Frankfurt on which the UK will have but one central banking voice.

There is already common acceptance in most of the European Union that monetary policy cannot be left in the hands of politicians and that the fight against inflation must continue until it is more or less permanently conquered.

Any harmful consequences to the UK economy from the blunt weapon of a common European monetary policy would be one of the costs to be paid for the advantages of having a single currency; and let us not forget that a single exchange rate for the whole Union could sometimes have adverse consequences for some enterprises which it may be difficult for them to

## Manufacturing and value of sterling

From the President of the UK Steel Association

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's article, "Eddie banks on a nation's shopkeepers" (February 24), suggests that those UK manufacturers unable to compete with the pound and DM3 must be inefficient and should therefore close down. At the end of his article he refers to the fulfilment of Margaret Thatcher's dream that "Britain will become a middle-class society, with fewer trade unionists, fewer grubby factories and less class war".

Since UK manufacturing currently accounts for nearly two thirds of Britain's exports, how would the nation's shopkeepers pay for their imports of food, cars, machinery, etc? Who in the services sector is going to find jobs to replace even some of the four million people directly employed in UK manufacturing, not to mention the additional four million who depend on manufacturing? And since the manufacturing sector is itself a major customer for the services sector, where are service companies going to find alternative markets?

The UK steel industry and its domestic customer base are substantial parts of the wider manufacturing sector. The industry has transformed itself over the last 10 to 15 years. It is effi-

cient, competitive and an internationally recognised success story, with many companies exporting 50 per cent or more of their output — that is until sterling surged to its present highly overvalued level versus the mark.

UK steel producers also have excellent environmental and labour relations records; for example, British Steel has itself not lost a day's work through industrial disputes by any of its employees since 1980, a testament to the consistently productive working relationships throughout its workforce, and between management and the relevant unions. Steel production is a high-tech business. Gone are the days — years ago — when steel was a "smokestack" industry.

It would be encouraging if those who evidently do not sufficiently recognise the role of UK manufacturing would take the trouble to update themselves about what really goes on in today's modern, high-technology industries and the major impact their performance has on Britain's economy, its exports and on jobs.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ROBSON,  
President, UK Steel Association,  
5 Cromwell Road, SW7 2HX,  
February 26.

## Child labour in the Third World

From Mr Bill Linton

Sir, Marks & Spencer are to be congratulated on caring enough about excluding suppliers who employ child labour to defend their reputation on this score in court (report, March 4). One hopes that the hole in their monitoring system, which allowed through the supplier which *World in Action* filmed, has by now been plugged.

As only about 5 per cent of child labour in developing countries is employed in export industries, no amount of consumer concern in the developed world will touch the core of the problem. Nevertheless it is critical that Western companies should adopt policies such as that defended by M&S, since Third World governments will never tackle the issue seriously until they see that we take it seriously.

This is not a sufficient condition, but it is a necessary one. Therefore Granada are also to be congratulated for raising the profile of the issue, and keeping M&S and their suppliers on their toes.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL LINTON,  
39a Fox Lane,  
Palmer's Green, N13 4AJ,  
March 4.

## The English problem

From Mr David Cox

Sir, Why should disparity in the population sizes of the component states (leading article, "The English problem", February 25) make a federal structure for the United Kingdom unsustainable? The United States of America has managed to accommodate both California and Rhode Island quite well. Elsewhere in the world, the federal model has shown itself the ideal means of containing all kinds of differences within successful nation states.

Decentralisation within the current structure of local government, which you say "offers limited promise", provides no answer to the West Lothian question. Powerful elected mayors might revitalise local decision-making (in which case Scotland and Wales deserve them as much as England), but there are questions which need to be resolved by a unit capable of reflecting national culture and identity.

Now that the Scots have chosen to make this unit Scotland rather than Britain, the English have no real choice but to make their unit England. This means we now require a federal arrangement.

Germany and Switzerland, not just the US, show us that this is perfectly straightforward. What exactly is the problem?

Yours etc,  
DAVID COX,  
9 Aghian Road, SW11 2QD,  
February 25.

## Diets and health

From Mr Barry A. Groves

Sir, While it is good to read in "Cheers to good health" (Weekend, February 22) that "old diets are out" I must take issue with some aspects of the article.

Although drinking red wine may be of benefit because of the flavonoid antioxidants it contains, you don't have to be a wine drinker to get them; they are also contained in tea. And the Mediterranean diet is not just a supplier of olive oil; consisting as it does of pates, salamis, cassioles and so on — all more than 50 per cent animal fat — it is a high-fat diet.

Recent findings published by the influential Framingham Heart Study in the US show that an increased intake of saturated fats reduced stroke deaths and that "intakes of fat and type of fat were not related to . . . cardiovascular diseases or to total or cardiovascular mortality". Research throughout the world actually shows that saturated fats are not harmful: it is only polyunsaturated vegetable oils that are, by increasing cancer risk.

It is no coincidence that over the last decade, since a Corna report introduced the idea of "healthy eating", obesity in Britain and the US has soared. Carbohydrates are fattening, and the best way to lose weight (not get fat in the first place) is a high-fat diet. The diet which has been shown to be the best for weight loss is low-fat, high-carbohydrate — which is precisely what the overweight are offered today.

The best start I know to a no-weight-gain, feel-good day is eggs and bacon, fried in lard, not oil. After 35 years' experience, I can assure readers that it requires no willpower at all.

Yours sincerely,  
BARRY A. GROVES  
(Author, *The Calorie Fallacy*, Bookmarque Publishing, 1994),  
Kohima, Lynham Road,  
Milton under Wyckwood,  
Oxford OX7 6LP,  
February 24.

## Patten book row

From Mrs C. Boreham

Sir, What is happening to free speech in this country? First we have the three Green Anarchist reporters jailed for three years for their writings (report, November 15, 1997), then Major Eric Joyce, sacked for his comments in a Fabian Society pamphlet criticising the Army for racism and sexism (report, March 2). Now we have Rupert Murdoch, seen as exercising censorship by refusing to publish Chris Patten's book (letters, March 4).

Is it any wonder that many people feel that Britain is changing, becoming more authoritarian and oppressive? As an essential check on a democratic society, we have freedom of speech erode at our peril.

Yours faithfully,  
C. BOREHAM,  
45 Elmersham Road, Stockton Heath,  
Warrington WA4 6DZ,  
March 4.

## Status of church courts

From Lord Lloyd of Berwick and the Bishop of Chichester

Sir, One effect of the Human Rights Bill, at present in committee in the Commons, is that all courts are subject to judicial review at the suit of an individual complaining that his rights under the European Convention of Human Rights have been infringed. An amendment passed at third reading in the House of Lords (reports, February 5 and 6; see also letters, February 5 and 11) exempts those courts exercising a jurisdiction in spiritual matters.

We would not for our part see any great harm, and indeed some good, in requiring church courts to give effect to convention rights in those rare cases where they may be relevant. No doubt they do so already in any event. But we question whether the decisions of the church courts in such cases should then be made subject to judicial review in the secular courts.

The church courts have never before been subject to the secular courts, except when they have strayed outside their jurisdiction. They have existed as equal courts ever since William the Conqueror's Charter of Separation.

It is surely unthinkable that a decision of the Court of Ecclesiastical Causes Reserved on a question of church doctrine (the court consists of three diocesan bishops and two judges of the Court of Appeal), or a decision of the Privy Council on appeal from the Court of Arches, should be reviewed on its merits by a single High Court judge.

Yours etc,  
LLOYD OF BERWICK,  
ERIC CICSTR,  
(Members, Court of Ecclesiastical Causes Reserved),  
House of Lords,  
February 26.

## Millennium Dome

From Mr Alan W. Bullett

Sir, You report (February 28; see also letters, March 3) that there will be in the Millennium Dome a children's computer game on financial dealing, enabling them to play at "crushing currencies and building empires".

I suppose it was inevitable that there would be something to echo the money changers in the Temple. Perhaps the computer program could also include a feature which from time to time overdraws the tables of the money changers. It might, just for a moment, remind the children of whose birth it is that the millennium celebrates and what He said of life's values.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN W. BULLETT,  
35 Mose Avenue,  
Maidstone, Kent ME15 7SU,  
March 3.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Peace role for EU in Middle East

From Lord Hylton

Few responsible people approve of Palestinians who call for Iraqi anthrax attacks on Tel Aviv or who smuggle arms across the Dead Sea, or into Gaza. Such behaviour becomes understandable, however, if one takes account of the fact that people tend to become violent when their basic needs for personal security and collective identity are denied over long periods.

Apart from the admirable humanitarian work of Unrwa (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), Israel and the world powers have done little for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, some of whom led their homes voluntarily whilst others were expelled in 1948 and 1967 from Israel and the West Bank (letters, March 3 and 4). The refugees now in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza and elsewhere have enjoyed little security or identity since those days.

Palestinians living in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza have seen settlements planted by Israel on land formerly theirs, connected by a massive road network which is also used by Israel's Army. The settlements, and Israel proper, absorb the lion's share of the water resources of the occupied territory.

When the fourth Geneva Convention has been disregarded and the 1993 Oslo accords are not kept, is it surprising that violence is a renewed temptation?

The time has surely come for dispassionate analysis with the parties concerned of the basic human needs of Israelis, Palestinians and Arabs. If a shared understanding of their needs for coexistence and symbiosis could be achieved, there would be a basis for permanent peace. The way would be open for the "fertile crescent" to flourish once more.

We seem to be far from peace, and time presses. In this situation, could the European Union persuade all concerned to examine the real needs and to apply problem-solving methods? Is it able to mobilise truly independent facilitators for such a process?

Yours faithfully,  
HYLTON,  
House of Lords,  
March 4.

## Manufacturing and value of sterling

From the President of the UK Steel Association

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's article, "Eddie banks on a nation's shopkeepers" (February 24), suggests that those UK manufacturers unable to compete with the pound and DM3 must be inefficient and should therefore close down. At the end of his article he refers to the fulfilment of Margaret Thatcher's dream that "Britain will become a middle-class society, with fewer trade unionists, fewer grubby factories and less class war".

Since UK manufacturing currently accounts for nearly two thirds of Britain's exports, how would the nation's shopkeepers pay for their imports of food, cars, machinery, etc? Who in the services sector is going to find jobs to replace even some of the four million people directly employed in UK manufacturing, not to mention the additional four million who depend on manufacturing? And since the manufacturing sector is itself a major customer for the services sector, where are service companies going to find alternative markets?

The UK steel industry and its domestic customer base are substantial parts of the wider manufacturing sector. The industry has transformed itself over the last 10 to 15 years. It is effi-

## Child labour in the Third World

From Mr Bill Linton

Sir, Marks & Spencer are to be congratulated on caring enough about excluding suppliers who employ child labour to defend their reputation on this score in court (report, March 4). One hopes that the hole in their monitoring system, which allowed through the supplier which *World in Action* filmed, has by now been plugged.

As only about 5 per cent of child labour in developing countries is employed in export industries, no amount of consumer concern in the developed world will touch the core of the problem. Nevertheless it is critical that Western companies should adopt policies such as that defended by M&S, since Third World governments will never tackle the issue seriously until they see that we take it seriously.

This is not a sufficient condition, but it is a necessary one. Therefore Granada are also to be congratulated for raising the profile of the issue, and keeping M&S and their suppliers on their toes.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL LINTON,  
39a Fox Lane,  
Palmer's Green, N13 4AJ,  
March 4.

## The English problem

From Mr David Cox

Sir, Why should disparity in the population sizes of the component states (leading article, "The English problem", February 25) make a federal structure for the United Kingdom unsustainable? The United States of America has managed to accommodate both California and Rhode Island quite well. Elsewhere in the world, the federal model has shown itself the ideal means of containing all kinds of differences within successful nation states.

Decentralisation within the current structure of local government, which you say "offers limited promise", provides no answer to the West Lothian question. Powerful elected mayors might revitalise local decision-making (in which case Scotland and Wales deserve them as much as England), but there are questions which need to be resolved by a unit capable of reflecting national culture and identity.

Now that the Scots have chosen to make this unit Scotland rather than Britain, the English have no real choice but to make their unit England. This means we now require a federal arrangement.

Germany and Switzerland, not just the US, show us that this is perfectly straightforward. What exactly is the problem?

Yours etc,  
DAVID COX,  
9 Aghian Road, SW11 2QD,  
February 25.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 5: His Excellency Mr Dror Zeigerman was received in audience by the Queen...

Royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will name the Flintshire Bridge...

Luncheons

City & Guilds
Mr Paul Wales, Chairman of Council and Director of the City and Guilds of London Institute...

Reception

Friends of Citizens Advice Bureau
A reception for the Friends of Citizens Advice Bureau Trust...

Birthdays today

Dr M.G. Adam, astrophysicist, 86; Sir Peter Barclay, former chairman, Social Security Advisory Committee...

Deaths

DEATHS
MURPHY - Alan, 64, died suddenly last night at home...



The staircase hall at Sunnycroft, whose other splendours include a large billiard room and palatial dining room.

A fitting monument to Victorian values

BY JOHN YOUNG
WHEN, some 120 years ago, John Wackerell, proprietor of the Shropshire Brewery...



Sunnycroft, the suburban villa the National Trust plans to open to the public next year.

albums indicate that the family remained almost wholly Victorian in outlook, with a strong commitment to self-sufficiency, thrift and hard work...

Birthdays today

Dr M.G. Adam, astrophysicist, 86; Sir Peter Barclay, former chairman, Social Security Advisory Committee...

Dinners

last night at Le Meridien Piccadilly, and attended by Heads of Mission for the Eastern and Western Hemispheres...

Service luncheon

gave a Ballagh Club, Dublin, officers of the Royal Irish Fusiliers...

Memorial service

Sir William Shephard
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Shephard, a Trustee of the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.S.P. Drane
and Miss L.H. Cutmore
The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of Rev Dr and Mrs John Drane...

Marriage

Mr J.R.G. Felling
and Miss F. Earle
The marriage took place on Friday, February 21, at St Joseph's Church...

Crafts results

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BIRTHS
POWERS - On February 20th, a son, William James Benedict, a son, Douglas Arthur Williams.

DEATHS
MURPHY - Alan, 64, died suddenly last night at home in South on Thursday February 26th 1998...

DEATHS
GREENWOOD - On March 3rd 1998 suddenly Alan, the newly bereaved widow of Geoffrey Greenwood...

DEATHS
WELSH - From C.I.B.I. on Wednesday March 4th 1998 at his home in Beaconsfield, Bucks...

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OBITUARIES

FRED FRIENDLY

Fred Friendly, American television producer, died on March 5 aged 82. He was born on October 30, 1915.

A pioneer of television journalism and a fierce upholder of the integrity of his profession, Fred Friendly was a giant of American broadcasting. The programmes he produced with the great reporter Ed Murrow in the decade after the Second World War set fresh standards for current affairs broadcasting. Their groundbreaking work, which included a memorable response to the corrosive anti-communist campaign of Senator Joseph McCarthy, was consolidated during Friendly's subsequent career as a forceful and influential broadcasting executive. Even after resigning from CBS on a point of principle in 1966, he continued to agitate for more and better television news, and to emphasise the ethical obligations on those who produced it.

"TV is bigger than any story it reports," he once said. "It's the greatest teaching tool since the printing press. It will determine nothing less than what kind of people we are."

Ferdinand Friendly Weisenheimer was born in New York City, but spent most of his childhood in Providence, Rhode Island, where at the age of 22 he began his broadcasting career as a local radio producer-reporter. In 1941, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he became a master sergeant in the information and education section of the US Army, serving as an Asian correspondent for the US Army newspaper CBI Round Up.

A few days after the dropping of the atom bombs he flew in a reconnaissance plane over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and what he saw then was something he never forgot and which always influenced his attitude to human society and to his chosen profession. "I am emotional about television," he wrote in 1966, "and I am also an idealist."

At the end of the war Friendly returned to New York, working briefly for NBC as a radio producer, where his work included a documentary series about the atom bomb, *The Quick and the Dead*, and a quiz show, *Who Said That?*, which was his first collaboration with the distinguished war correspondent Edward R. Murrow. In 1947 he joined



Fred Friendly, left, with Ed Murrow in the 1950s

CBS, working with Murrow on a nightly news programme. Two years later they made the first of a series of albums of recorded history from 1933 to 1945, which they financed independently. *I Can Hear It Now* was so successful that Friendly's share of the profits paid for the college education of his three children.

His close relationship with Murrow continued until the latter's death in 1965, and their creative partnership will always be remembered as one of the most important chapters in the history of broadcasting. *I Can Hear It Now* was followed by the weekly CBS radio series *Hear It Now*, and from November 1953 by the television series *See It Now*, which ran for seven years.

Ed Murrow, because of his wartime radio broadcasts, and especially those from London during the Blitz, was greatly respected by the American public, and *See It Now* was

regarded as a programme to be trusted and which enjoyed complete editorial freedom. Murrow and Friendly were credited as joint editors and producers, and Friendly never doubted its basic principles. "We believe our job is to try and cast a little light, create a little more understanding of what bothers people, what helps people, what can kill and what can cure. Perhaps it's fair to say that we too, like many other people, have 'fire in the belly'."

The first *See It Now* programme included "live" shots of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York and of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, shown simultaneously on a "split screen", the West and East coasts seen together for the first time. "A medium capable of doing this could provide reporters with a new weapon in journalism. We hoped we would never abuse it," said Friendly.

In its first four years *See It Now* sent its camera teams "to every continent except Australia". One of its earliest programmes, *Christmas in Korea*, shown on December 29, 1953, began with Murrow's ominous words "This is Korea, where a war is going on. That's a Marine, digging a hole in the ground. They dig an awful lot of holes in the ground in Korea."

*See It Now* will always be especially remembered for its programmes on Joseph McCarthy, and especially the one shown in March 1954, which had McCarthy making his charges against "communists" in public life, and then contradicted him with an accurate report of the facts. For the first time the American audience could say "we don't have to sit back and listen to McCarthy any longer, we can write about him and attack him". It was hardly surprising that McCarthy dismissed Murrow and

Friendly as "a jackal pack", and much of the press, as well as some owners and sponsors of commercial television, were equally critical.

*See It Now* ended in 1958, and was succeeded a year later by *CBS Reports*, with Fred Friendly as executive producer, and its subjects were brave and controversial: *Harvest of Shame*, about migrating farm workers; *Biography of a Bookie Joint* about an illegal gambling establishment in Boston; *Thunder on the Right* which critically examined right-wing political groups; and *The Outer Face of Dixie*, about four American cities which had successfully met the challenge of racial conflict.

Fred Friendly became the President of CBS News in 1964, and resigned two years later. His resignation was on a matter of principle, when CBS had refused to transmit live coverage of an important Vietnam investigation by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, preferring to show a fifth rerun of *I Love Lucy*, under pressure from the advertising lobby. Times had changed since the days when he could write of *See It Now* that "no sponsor ever sees the programme before it is broadcast, or has any voice in its content". Now he felt that "because television can make so much money doing its worst, it often cannot afford to do its best."

From CBS Friendly went to the Ford Foundation to help with its work in broadcasting, and was largely responsible for a detailed proposal which suggested that the new satellite system should be used to help the funding of public broadcasting. He always remained loyal to his own deep principles, and in the 1980s he worked as "host" and "commentator" on several programmes, for PBS (the Public Broadcasting System): *The Constitution*, *The Delicate Balance*, *In the Face of Terrorism*, and *The President and the Constitution*. He was appointed Edward R. Murrow Professor of Broadcast Journalism at Columbia University, and continued to teach in the journalism school there even after his retirement from the chair in 1979. "Every day," he once wrote, "there is more for the people of the world to know, and every day what we don't know can kill us."

Fred Friendly was married twice. He leaves a widow, Ruth, two sons and a daughter from his previous marriage, and three stepsons.

MYA THAN TINT

Mya Than Tint, Burmese writer and translator, died after a fall at his Rangoon home on February 18 aged 68. He was born on May 23, 1929.



THE death of Mya Than Tint deprives Burmese literature of a fiction writer, but, as important, one of his country's main providers of information about cultural life and philosophical thought in the outside world. A prolific translator from English into Burmese, he scoured the pages of *The Times Literary Supplement*, the shelves of the British Council Library and the US Information Service in Rangoon for short stories, novels and histories to educate the average Burmese reader, otherwise denied access to them by linguistic barriers and censorship. Thanks to him, Burmese readers can enjoy 20th-century history, *War and Peace*, *Gone With the Wind*, Sherlock Holmes and the short stories of Rabindranath Tagore.

Mya Than Tint was born in Myaing, central Burma. His lawyer father sent him to a school where he became one of the first children to learn English. The outbreak of war in 1942 interrupted his education which he later resumed in a monastery where he absorbed Buddhism and Burmese classical literature.

He joined the anti-Japanese resistance and made contact with nearby Burmese communists, until the *Kempetzi* (the Japanese equivalent of the *Geenapoi*) took an interest in his activities, and he was forced to flee to Mandalay. It was there that he developed left-wing sympathies, drawing his ideas from the books published by the Nagami (Red Dragon) Book Club, which had a formative influence on many of the politicians of that generation, including the architect of Burmese independence, Aung San.

In 1948, the year Burma became independent, he left the Communist Party and entered Rangoon University where he took a degree in philosophy, English literature and political science. He started writing to record his war experiences. His first short story, *The Refugee*, about a peasant woman whose son is killed by the Japanese, appeared in the magazine *Te-yu* in 1949.

For the next decade, a period in which there was little censorship in Burma, he continued writing while earning a living as a journalist. He was

active in the peace movement, and as general secretary of the World Peace Council he visited Stockholm, Moscow and Peking in 1961.

His first period in jail was under Burma's 1958 caretaker military government led by General Ne Win. He spent the first two years of it in Rangoon's (later notorious) Insein Jail before being transferred, in 1959, to a jail on the Coco Islands in the Andaman Sea. He was released in 1960 when U Nu's civilian government came briefly to power, but found himself back in prison when political activists were rounded up in 1963, a year after Ne Win's military coup. He spent three years in solitary confinement in Insein. Some inmates went mad, or died from ill-treatment.

In 1968 he was transferred again to the Coco Islands, an "open" jail where the authorities told inmates they were free to swim away through shark-infested seas. Three prisoners did attempt, unsuccessfully, to escape in a boat. After his release Mya Than Tint used their experiences in his novel *Da-daung* ("Through Hell and High Water").

Protests by the prisoners against the cruel conditions on the island led to the jail's closure in 1972, and Mya Than Tint was released. He returned to writing fiction but found that the censor was now all-powerful and instead concentrated on translation and non-fiction which stood a better chance of being passed by

the Press Scrutiny Board. Throughout this period he continued the tradition he and fellow writers had begun in the 1950s of travelling the country during the cool season for discussions on literature, the arts and other topical issues. These literary gatherings attracted large rural audiences and offered the opportunity to communicate ideas which would otherwise have been banned by the censor.

During the 1980s he decided that the urban middle classes could learn something, too, from the lives of the poor of their own country. Inspired by the American oral historian and journalist Studs Terkel, he interviewed waitresses, porters and market-traders he met in his travels and wrote up their life stories in a monthly magazine. They are collected in English as *On the Road to Mandalay*.

In the years since the 1988 military coup by Burma's State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), Mya Than Tint had avoided political controversy and hence the outright bans imposed on some of his writer colleagues. Some younger pro-democracy activists criticised him for accepting government literary prizes, but unlike some writers of his generation, he never spoke out in support of the SLORC. Mya Than Tint is survived by his wife Khin Mar Mar and by two sons and two daughters.

MARTINDALE SIDWELL

Martindale Sidwell, organist, choirmaster and conductor, died on February 20 aged 81. He was born in Little Packington, Warwickshire, on February 23, 1916.

TO BE organist and choirmaster of two important London churches for a period of nearly 50 years (Hampstead

Parish Church, 1945-92; St Clement Danes, 1957-92) must be something of a record, but Martindale Sidwell combined this with the founding and conducting of the Hampstead Choral Society (1946-81); the Martindale Sidwell Singers (1952-92) and the London Bach Orchestra (1967-81), teaching the organ at the Royal Academy of Music (1963-84) and previously at Trinity College

of Music and the Royal School of Church Music and making numerous recordings and broadcasts. Martindale Sidwell went as a solo chorister to Wells Cathedral School where he was seen, and was appointed the cathedral's sub-organist in 1932. After war service (from which he was invalided out, first with the North Somerset Yeomanry and finally with the

Royal Engineers, he was appointed temporary organist at Holy Trinity, Leamington, and director of music at Warwick School. Then, having been refused admission to the Royal College of Music in London, he went to the Royal Academy of Music for further study with C. H. Trevor. These are the bare facts, but they do not account, by themselves, for the devotion and

allegiance that he inspired in the singers and players who worked with him, which emerge whenever his name is mentioned, and produced the capacity audience at his 80th birthday service at St Clement Danes.

No one who had any professional contact with Martin (as he was to his many friends) would deny that he could sometimes be blunt, even rude, and he did not suffer bad musicians. He had no use for superficial charm. This deterred some, but provoked a fierce loyalty among those who held his musicianship in high regard. He, in turn, was loyal and generous to his musicians. He gave solo opportunities to players in the London Bach Orchestra, a professional fine musicians as well as the interest of the audiences which regularly filled the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

When he and his family moved to their home in Frogna Gardens, a few yards from Hampstead Parish Church, one of his former trebles, now a distinguished composer, asked him if he wouldn't prefer to drive rather than walk to church. Sidwell returned "Bless my soul, I walk miles during a Bach prelude and fugue."



Bach's music was his speciality, and he played it with deep commitment and no frills: "bread-of-life Bach", one of his string players called it. His annual performances of the Christmas Oratorio at the Royal Festival Hall (usually sold out) were unforgettable, and it was not without reason that Otto Klemperer and Walter Legge chose Sidwell's boys for the ripieno choir in EMI's early 1960s recording of the St Matthew Passion.

He was as fanatical about tuning and intonation as Sir Henry Wood had been, and the first hour of his first rehearsal with the men at Hampstead was the story goes, spent intoning the Lord's Prayer in an attempt to get everyone singing the same note - which probably persuaded some of them to leave. But he was no antiquarian: he was teaching his pupils the organ sonatas of Hindemith when they were still con-

sidered wildly avant-garde. Martindale Sidwell also enjoyed a busy and hospitable domestic life with his devoted wife Barbara (Hill), a well known pianist and harpsichordist, whom he married in 1944, and their two sons (both of them Hampstead choristers in their time). He was also a staunch and valued member of the Savage Club for almost 30 years. His wife and sons survive him.

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CHINDE WIPED OUT WRECKAGE PILED ON THE SHORE (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

BEIRA, March 5 The story of the cyclone shows that Chinde is practically flattened out, that with few exceptions all the flotilla of river steamers and barges on which the large plantations on the Zambezi and the Nyasaland Protectorate are dependent as a means of conveying supplies and dealing with exports and the passenger traffic are sunk or smashed; the whole has been piled up on the foreshore, steamer on barge and barge on steamer. Altogether 12 river steamers, steamers, are stranded on the riverbanks, in addition to 40 barges, while the Salvador, one of the two Portuguese river gunboats, is totally wrecked. The only craft that escaped damage or destruction are the coasters Mutia, belonging to the Harrison Line, and the Waterbury, a small but powerful coaster employed in the service of the Sena sugar estates, which held to her anchors by steering ahead. When the cyclone, which came from up the river, struck Chinde the town and anchorage were immediately enveloped in a canopy of driving rain, spindrift from the river, and a

ON THIS DAY March 6, 1922

1922 was a bad year for this Mozambique trading post at the mouth of the Zambezi. As well as the cyclone, a 30-year-old concession to British shipping lapsed, and Beira, down the coast and with a new railway, became the main link to inland Nyasaland (Malawi). The steamer Cobra barked with the elements until she was driven towards the bar and disappeared in a haze. She was subsequently found down the river smashed and surrounded by wrecked barges. Her captain was picked up unconscious by natives and taken to cover. Three passengers of the Cobra had a thrilling escape. They were Lieutenant-Colonel Smeaton and his wife, and Mr Johnson, a commercial traveller. The Cobra was in difficulties when another steamer, the Princess, careered towards her with her complement of barges. They swung clear in time, but the barges crashed and it became evident that the best thing the passengers could do was to try to reach the Princess. Stripping almost naked, Colonel Smeaton jumped and the others followed. With Mrs Smeaton between them, they slowly made their way towards the Princess and reached her, only to find that the side of her cabin was ripped away. Just then more careering barges rushed past and grounded, and the three escaped, after incredible difficulty, ashore leaving, as did others, all their belongings to be engulfed by the river.

NEWS

Rape cross-examination reform

Men accused of rape are to be barred from cross-examining their victims under measures promised by Jack Straw to overhaul the way serious sexual offences are dealt with.

The Home Secretary also intends to introduce a law so that people who deliberately give their partners Aids could face life imprisonment. Mr Straw told The Times that the changes would come in a criminal justice Bill to be introduced in the next session of Parliament and in a separate Bill to overhaul the ancient catch-all assault laws.

Water found on the Moon

An American spacecraft has discovered water on the Moon. The water is scattered in small pockets over a large area around the north and south poles. It is found in craters, where deep shadow has protected it from the Sun.

Freemasons escape

Britain's Freemasons avoided a confrontation with MPs and escaped a charge of contempt of Parliament by handing over the names of 17 members.

'Mardi Gra' blast

A student suffered serious leg injuries when a bomb exploded close to a South London supermarket. The incident is believed to be the 35th attack by the Mardi Gra bomber.

Credit limit

An attempt by Labour to link the Government with the latest British designs backfired when it emerged that a new building singled out by ministers was commissioned by the Tories.

Old question

Thirty million people are to be asked how to prepare Britain for the consequences of its ageing population in a campaign called Debate of the Age.

Princess case anger

The French judge investigating the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was said to be "livid and confused" at the behaviour of Mohamed Al Fayed.

Humble (meat) pie

The Government has been forced into an embarrassing retreat over advice given by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, to reduce consumption of red meat.

Girl's fatal panic

A girl aged 12 seemed to freeze in panic as her bicycle hurtled towards the edge of a cliff in the French Alps, an inquest was told.

Villages shelled

Refugees from Serbia's bloody clampdown on its Kosovo Albanian neighbours staggered into towns as military units shelled their remote villages.

Caesarean warning

Wiltshire health authority has become the first in the country to ask its doctors to carry out fewer births by Caesarean section because they are now too expensive.

Bus bomb kills 30

A bus bomb killed at least 30 people and injured 200 in the Sri Lankan capital, demonstrating the Tamil Tigers' continued ability to spread terror.

Recruiting blacks

The Household Cavalry and five Guards regiments have been given 2½ years to recruit more than 200 black and Asian soldiers so that they reflect Britain's ethnic make-up.

Clinton 'testimony'

President Clinton admitted he might have been alone in the White House with Monica Lewinsky and that their relationship included exchanging gifts, according to a leak of his sworn testimony.

Hail Kevin, the Roman conqueror

Italian parents are deserting names from history and the Bible in favour of those from pop, films and fashion. The top names for new Romans are Andrea and Giulia. But close behind are Kevin, Brandon, Naomi and Sharon. Parents might have in mind St Kevin, the 7th-century abbot, but a La Repubblica survey proved that the Kevin in question was Costner.



A Spanish policeman keeps a close eye on Chelsea fans as they warm up for their Cup Winners match with Betis in Seville last night

BUSINESS

Millennium bug: Two of Britain's biggest companies, Zeneca and Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance, each expect to spend around £100 million to ensure computer systems can cope with the year 2000 and to prepare for EMU.

SPORTS

Rugby union: The dispute between England's leading clubs and the RFU has come to a head with the clubs voting whether to ban their players from touring.

Oh, brothers: The rock audience

in this country doesn't like to be jerked around, especially by a bunch of Poms. Richard Morrison sees Oasis bomb in Adelaide.

Student loans: Natwest beat off strong competition to win £1 billion of student loans in the first stage of Government plans to privatise £3.5 billion of student debt.

Football: Alex Ferguson appeared uncommonly content as he returned home after Manchester United's draw in the away leg of their Champions Cup quarter-final against AS Monaco.

Plugged in: The week's new pop albums include Eric Clapton's first collection of mostly new songs in nine years, miming a rich vein of upmarket melancholia.

Interest rates: The Bank of England left rates unchanged. The decision was greeted with both relief and derision.

Crickets: Michael Atherton plans to miss England's three-day game against Barbados in the expectation that he will benefit more from rest and practice.

Pop and drugs: As the ties between pop music and drug culture grow tighter, David Sinclair wonders if the same survivors would go down the lucky path again.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 37.5 to 5695.6. Sterling rose from 105.4 to 105.6 after a fall from \$1.6472 to \$1.6427 but a rise from DM2.961 to DM3.0045.

Motor racing: Damon Hill is inclined to get back on the track after an enforced absence and a period of weeks while the team struggled to get his new car ready.

No peace: Gary Mitchell plundered his own loyalist Belfast background to write in a Little World of Our Own, a tense play full of violence and bigotry.



TOMORROW

VISION: Anna Friel in BBC2's Our Mutual Friend in the seven-day TV and radio guide.

WEEKEND: Who is to blame for the troubles afflicting the Prince of Wales's architectural institute?

RADIO & TV

Preview: Forgotten passports and drunks are all in the day's work. Airline (TV, 8pm). Review: Paul Hoggart welcomes a cool approach to the case of Louise Woodward. Pages 54, 55.

Balkan emergency

In this fast deteriorating and perilous situation around Kosovo, readiness to use force offers the best prospect of a non-military solution.

Peer pressure

The Government was right to initiate a dialogue with the Opposition over reforming the House of Lords. Mr Hague was equally wise to respond in positive terms.

Water on the Moon

Today our smile is even broader. For all those confident dismissals on life on the silver Moon may now also be out of date.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Not since Gladstone has Britain been governed by a man of such fierce and public faith. And, before Mr Blair, Gladstone stood almost alone. I have no doubt Mr Blair will convert to Catholicism. He may - in all but outward show - have done so already.

JOHN LLOYD

Nothing more excites the rage and scorn of the Prime Minister and his trustees than what they often call in private The Guardian mentality - identifying that great newspaper with a whingeing, self-flattering, anti-British mentality, one which views every effort to praise our country or to engage in ambitious projects as useless, chauvinistic or doomed.

PHILIP HOWARD

Few names could have been more plonking originally than Rolls-Royce, Alfa Romeo, Bristol, Bentley and Volvo. But as with people, the car makes the name, not the name the car.

Fred Friendly, TV producer; Mye Thuan Tin, Burmese writer; Martin Dale Stowell, musician.

Middle East; interest rates; manufacturing; child labour; Church grants; low fat diets; Patten book; Exemson secrecy.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,732

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words. The grid is partially filled with letters.

- ACROSS: 1 Rodent's limb cat is about to grab (6). 5 Mob's shifting alliance (8). 9 Divided up Japanese fencing, available in natural wood colour (6,4). 10 Ride gives feeling of elation (4). 11 Thought about a second one before beginning to drink (8). 12 Final instruction for beauty's toilette once? Exactly (4,2). 13 One pound rejected in country using francs (4). 15 Gun broken, relished using bare hands (8). 18 Solemn pronouncement in betting record that could pull punters in (4-4). 19 Duke making heartless premier (4). 21 Indirect route - the way one gets into security zone? (6).

A solution to a word puzzle. The words are arranged in a grid format, with some words highlighted in bold. The words include: SECURER, TWO, TITIMER, A, L, U, S, A, U, T, I, A, FOOTNOTES, RESIN, S, A, B, L, E, D, THEME, NOISOME, L, Y, D, N, P, A, PAPERHANGER, DOG, I, A, B, M, O, A, NUT, KIDNAPPINGS, A, B, C, E, H, BAKERSHISH, HIPPO, L, E, A, I, A, E, T, L, URIBEL, RUNAROUND, N, L, E, E, O, N, E, TULLYARD, ENDEAR.

Times Two Crossword, page 60

LEAZED ROAD and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions: 0336 444 010. UK Roads - All regions: 0336 401 010.

Weather by Fax. 24hr 0336 followed by area number from your fax. UK Fax: 0336 412 241.

World City Weather. 152 destinations world wide. 24 hour fax: 0336 411216.

Motoring. Europe Country by Country: 0336 401 888. Car reports by fax: 0336 416 399.

HOURS OF DARKNESS. Sun sets: 6:36 am. Moon sets: 2:19 am.

Full moon March 13. London 5:49 pm to 6:33 am. Edinburgh 5:57 pm to 6:42 am.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

General: England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic will have outbreaks of rain with risk of flooding in southwest England and Wales.

Northern Scotland will have sunny spells and the odd snow shower, and steeper sleet or snow will edge northwards into southern Scotland.

Table with 2 columns: City, Sun Rain, Max, Min. Lists weather for various cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

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Table with 2 columns: City, Sun Rain, Max, Min. Lists weather for various cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

ABROAD. Table with 2 columns: City, Sun Rain, Max, Min. Lists weather for various international cities like Aljaccio, Amman, etc.

Map of the British Isles showing weather fronts and wind directions. Labels include 'Westerly front', 'Cold front', 'Occluded front'.

Changes to the chart below from noon: Low T will move slowly east; high M will collapse and high A will become the dominant centre.

Table with 2 columns: City, Sun Rain, Max, Min. Lists weather for various cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

Table with 2 columns: City, Sun Rain, Max, Min. Lists weather for various cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

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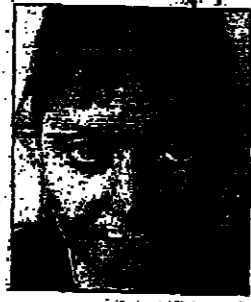
Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday X = not available. TODAY: AM, HT, PM, HT. TODAY: AM, HT, PM, HT.

The Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

# THE TIMES

# 2

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**ECONOMICS**  
Janet Bush rates the MPC's stand  
PAGE 35



**MEDIA**  
Raymond Snoddy on the pound power of children's TV  
PAGES 45-48



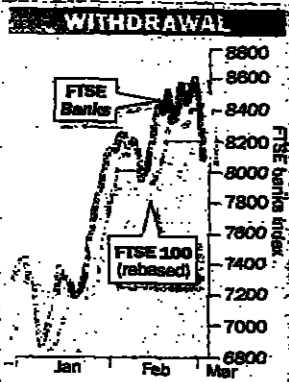
**SPORT**  
Hill comes out of the wilderness with Jordan  
PAGES 53-60

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
PAGES 58, 59

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MARCH 6 1998

## Mixed reaction as Bank puts rates on hold



**BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR**  
THE Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee yesterday left base rates unchanged at 7.25 per cent, a decision that was greeted with relief by some and derision by others. The Confederation of British Industry, whose latest distributive trades survey yesterday pointed to a modest slowdown in activity in the high street, said that there were now signs that economic growth was decelerating. Kate Barker, the CBI's chief economic adviser, said that inflation pressures remained encouragingly

subdued in most sectors and that the Government should meet its inflation target without further rate rises. However, other voices from industry expressed dismay that the MPC had not cut rates. Richard Ireland, president of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressed "bitter disappointment". He said: "While we can take some comfort from the fact that rates have not been hiked further, it is still grave news for the region's manufacturing sector, which is on the brink of recession." A contrasting view came from the City. Richard Jeffrey, group economist of Charterhouse, said that there was

no sign that demand in the economy had reacted to successive rises in interest rates since May. He cited strong recent figures for consumer confidence and consumer credit, as well as yesterday's news that new car registrations in February were 8.3 per cent up on a year ago. He said: "In this context, the decision by the MPC looks very dangerous." The stock market, far from being cheered by the news, fell because of a

profit warning from Intel Corp, the US microchip manufacturer. Having been 100 points lower mid-morning, the FTSE 100 index ended down 37.5 points at 5,695.6 as the market was depressed by the downgrading of bank shares. In the foreign exchange market, there was no welcome drop in the pound after the committee's decision because, quite independently, the mark slumped in late trading, boosting sterling. The German currency dropped after Hans-Dieter Kuehnbacher, a member of the Bundesbank council, said that he expected interest rates in Europe to

be close to 3.3 per cent when the euro is launched, lower than the 4 per cent currently priced into the financial markets. In late dealing, the pound traded at DM3.01, up two pence from a brief low of DM2.9805 reached after the MPC announcement. The CBI said yesterday that growth in annual retail sales slowed slightly in February and that the overall volume increase was less than retailers had expected. However, it said that, taking an average of the past three months, the annual rate of increase in sales was the fastest reported for more than a year.

### BUSINESS TODAY

**STOCK MARKET**

FTSE 100	5695.6	(-37.5)
Yield	2.57%	
FTSE All share	2611.11	(-17.44)
Nikkei	16848.55	(-247.05)
New York		
Dow Jones	8473.23	(-66.01)
S&P Composite	1038.17	(-9.16)

**BOND MARKET**

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	101 1/8%	(101 1/8%)
Yield	6.05%	(6.04%)

**CURRENCY**

3-mth Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt		
Libor (Jun)	106 1/4%	(106 1/4%)

**NEW YORK**

Dollar	1.6450*	(1.6475)
DM	1.6428	(1.6471)
DM	3.0047	(2.9957)
FF	16.0730	(16.0425)
FF	2.4382	(2.4352)
Yen	208.73	(208.31)
E Index	105.6	(105.4)

**COMMODITIES**

London		
DM	1.6250*	(1.6188)
FF	6.0975*	(6.1000)
FF	1.4940*	(1.4925)
Yen	127.72*	(128.75)
E Index	109.0	(108.5)

Tokyo close Yen 127.15

**ADDITIONAL**

London		
DM	1.6250*	(1.6188)
FF	6.0975*	(6.1000)
FF	1.4940*	(1.4925)
Yen	127.72*	(128.75)
E Index	109.0	(108.5)

Tokyo close Yen 127.15

Brent 15-day (May) \$14.38 (\$14.38)

London close \$233.75 (\$236.75)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Zeneca and RSA face £100m 'bug' charge

BY PAUL DURMAN



Sir David Barnes, the chief executive of Zeneca, reiterated the case for the company remaining independent

TWO of Britain's biggest companies, Zeneca and Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance, yesterday revealed that they each expect to spend around £100 million to ensure their computer systems can cope with the Year 2000 millennium bug and preparing for European Monetary Union. This is the latest indication of the scale of the cost British industry faces from the twin systems problems, which are proving a boon to computer programming contractors. Last month Unilever, the food and toiletries group, estimated the millennium problem will cost it between £250 million to £300 million, while Reuters, the financial information company, put its cost at £73 million. Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals group, said it spent £13 million on tackling the millennium bug last year and will spend another £45 million this year. Sir David Barnes, chief executive, said the company intended to be substantially "millennium compliant" by the end of this year. He said Zeneca would then "turn to our suppliers and customers to make sure they are as compliant as we are". The total cost of this work is put at £70 million, but Zeneca also expects to spend another £25 million between now and 2002 adapting its systems for EMU. Royal & Sun Alliance intends to spend £58 million this year. A spokesman said: "We need to update all our systems by the end of the

year because all our policies run for a year. We estimate that the IT work will require \$40 man-years." The systems costs initially prompted a sharp fall in Zeneca's share price, though it rallied to end the day 5p higher at £26.15. The company was reporting a 7 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £1.08 billion, despite missing out on £78 million because of the strength of sterling.

Zeneca has long been seen as a takeover candidate but Sir David reiterated the case for its remaining independent. He said the 7 per cent improvement in profits was a very strong performance that bettered the 4 per cent rise from SmithKline Beecham and the 9 per cent decline

suffered by Glaxo Wellcome. "In terms of the comparative quality of our performance, we can justifiably claim our looks pretty good," he said. He said acquisitions were not a substitute for organic growth. Tom McKillop, chief executive of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, said there was no evidence that mergers produced an improvement in research and development productivity — the claimed benefit of the aborted deal

between SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome. Stripping out currency effects, Zeneca made strong progress in each of its three divisions. Pharmaceutical profits increased by 17 per cent on sales that rose by 16 per cent, and by 24 per cent in the important US market. A second interim dividend of 25p a share, payable on May 5, will increase the total payout by 10 per cent to 38.5p.

## NatWest wins £1bn student loan package

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATWEST beat off strong competition to win £1 billion of student loans in the first stage of government plans to privatise £3.5 billion of student debt. The bank is expected to receive an on-going yearly subsidy of about £60 million to run the loan book, plus a government guarantee that it will underwrite approximately 5 per cent of the portfolio. A special company, Finance for Higher Education, has been established by the bank's debt division, Greenwich NatWest, to acquire the assets, which it plans to securitise against cash-flow. The deal specifies that the key loan agreement terms will be frozen and an independent assessor will be established to investigate any disputes. The bank is prohibited from cross-marketing to the 500,000 borrowers who come with the deal. NM Rothschild, adviser to the Department for Education and Employment, said it expected a second tranche of student debt worth about £2 billion to go on sale later this year. James Vaux, a director of Rothschild, said NatWest won

the business because it required the lowest subsidy. The state subsidy is based on a complex formula linked to LIBOR, but should not exceed £60 million a year and will diminish as the loans are repaid. It is necessary to make up the difference between the low interest charged on student loans and a commercial rate of interest, plus a profit margin for the new lender. In addition, the DfEE has agreed to reimburse NatWest for any long-term defaults up to just under 5 per cent of the total £1 billion portfolio, if the bank can prove that the administrators have made every effort to recover the debt. Yesterday's sale relates to loans granted since 1990 and is not connected with the recommendations of Dearing committee on education. The three other groups shortlisted for the £1 billion loan book were Goldman Sachs teamed with Barclays Capital and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell allied with Sallic Mae, the US student loans company and JP Morgan, the US investment bank.

### Advertising

More O'Ferrall, one of the leading names in the British advertising industry, has been bought for £466 million by Clear Channel, one of the biggest US media conglomerates. Page 32

### Hanson

Hanson, the former conglomerate, admitted that the final stages of its restructuring were taking longer than anticipated but hoped that the £500 million of disposals would be completed soon. Page 37

## Computer Associates calls a halt to hostile \$9bn bid

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

COMPUTER ASSOCIATES, the US software group, yesterday called off its \$9 billion hostile bid for Computer Sciences. Charles Wang, the chairman, blamed racism and a disagreement over price for the failure of the biggest and dirtiest hostile bid battle in the computer industry. Mr Wang, whose family emigrated from China 45 years ago, claimed to be upset by

Computer Sciences' business practices and its reluctance to meet him. "This kind of ugly racial stuff has to end. To possible whether I can do good work for the Government because I am a naturalised citizen, that's just plainly wrong." Mr Wang also hinted that Computer Sciences had voiced doubts about Sanjay Kumar, CA's president, who was born in Sri Lanka.

Computer Sciences, which works as an IT consultant for US Government agencies, said: "We deny in the strongest possible terms that we are being racist. We did raise concerns regarding foreign ownership and national security. But they were over Mr Wang's engagement in mainland China and the 23 per cent ownership of Computer Associates by a Swiss national."

## Hillsdown reveals plans to break-up

BY CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS became the latest major UK company to consider a break-up in a quest to lift the value of its shares when it suggested it may sell or demerge its housebuilding arm, Fairview Homes. Shares in Hillsdown initially surged on news that the board "will be considering a full range of options relating to the structure of Hillsdown." The company, which would

focus on its food manufacturing interests, has hired Schroders, the investment bank, to advise on the process. George Greener, chief executive, indicated the decision would be revealed at the annual meeting on May 8. The shares ended 5p higher at 169p as some analysts expressed scepticism that Hillsdown would find it easy to generate quick returns from breaking up the company. Mr Greener said that excellent performances in the non-food businesses were being neutralised by results from the food business. He pointed to Hillsdown's rating of 9.3 times earnings compared with ratings of 12 times for housebuilders. Hillsdown's pre-tax profit fell from £129 million to £110 million last year after a weak performance from food processing, while profits surged from £23 million to £41 million at Fairview. Profits at Hillsdown's furniture business rose from £18 million to £21 million. Hillsdown is maintaining the full year dividend at 10p with an unchanged 7.8p final.

## Laura Ashley cuts Japanese stake

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Laura Ashley rallied almost 10 per cent yesterday as the troubled retailer and fashion group announced plans to raise £9.5 million by reducing its holding in its Japanese joint venture. The company is to sell 13 per cent of Laura Ashley Japan (LAJ) to Jusco, its Japanese joint venture partner, for £8 million. As part of the deal, the royalty payment Laura Ashley receives from LAJ is to increase from 2 to 3 per cent, and

it will receive another £1.5 million from LAJ as compensation for previous royalties. The deal, which boosted Laura Ashley shares from 33p to 36p, will cut its stake in LAJ from 39.7 to 26.7 per cent. Both parties intend to list LAJ on Tokyo's over-the-counter market eventually. In theory, yesterday's deal values the British group's remaining stake in LAJ at £16.4 million, against its own stock market value before

yesterday of about £80 million. However, the company cautioned against such an equation as Jusco had paid a premium based on several one-off factors. The sale is part of a rescue plan put in place by John Thornton, chairman, and David Hoare, chief executive, after Ann Iverson's dismissal in November in the wake of a disastrous foray into America.



Thornton: rescue plan

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# BTR to cut costs after Asian crisis takes its toll

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, yesterday revealed a £105 million charge from currency fluctuations as it pledged to reduce its costs in Asia, where it has been heavily exposed to the economic crisis.

The company, which this week announced a £2 billion return to shareholders, said it was looking for low-cost production centres in Asia but gave warning that a recovery would not be immediate. A disappointing performance by its rail group also hit profits.

Ian Strachan, chief executive, said that tough conditions would continue to dog BTR's performance this year. He said: "We are operating in a challenging environment and, as we enter 1998, many of the issues affecting us in the last quarter of 1997 continue to have an impact on the group."

BTR is transforming itself

from a conglomerate into a focused engineering group. This week it announced the £2.2 billion sale of its glass and bottling division.

Mr Strachan said: "BTR is one of the most profitable engineering companies of its size and the group is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities as the international environment stabilises."

The fallout in Asia largely affected its automotive division, while the strength of sterling hit its power drive motors business.

Mr Strachan said the effort to reduce costs could take time. He said: "It won't be an overnight change. The conditions that have occurred in South-East Asia make it more important that we locate manufacturing in a low-cost environment."

Underlying pre-tax profits fell 10.4 per cent to £1.07 billion, although sales had risen to £7.4 billion from £6.9 billion. However, the figures were in line with analysts' expectations. Profits in automotive supply fell 8.7 per cent to £136 million.

The total dividend was held at 9.6p, which pleased some analysts who had feared a cut after the number of profits warnings delivered by BTR. At the end of last year the company issued its fifth profits warning in four years. The move was followed by the swift and unexpected departure of Paul Buysse, one of the directors seen as very much in BTR's old guard.

The final dividend of 5.6p is due on June 2. The shares fell 4 1/2 p to 187p.

## April vote on Tribune

REBEL shareholders are in conflict with the board of Baring Tribune, a £346 million international investment trust, over plans to reconstruct the fund (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Advance UK Trust, a venture fund, Sun Life and J O Hambros Capital Management, with 10.8 per cent of Tribune shares, have forced a reconstruction vote at its annual meeting, on April 2. Miles Rivett-Carnac, chairman, said the proposal was "misconceived".

# Rolls-Royce wins record sales

By ADAM JONES



Sir Ralph Robins has seen Rolls-Royce's order book thrive in spite of US competition

SHARES in Rolls-Royce rose 16 1/2 p to 252 1/2 p yesterday after the aero-engine company said that it won a record 34 per cent of the civil aircraft engine market in 1997, up from about 20 per cent.

Rolls-Royce's order book has thrived in spite of fierce competition from the company's US rivals Pratt & Whitney and General Electric. It has been particularly strong in the "wide-bodied" market, which includes the Airbus A330 and A340, and the Boeing 747 and 777, picking up 40 per cent of engine orders last year.

Sir Ralph Robins, chairman, said that the group had a £8 billion order book at the end of the year, with £2.1 billion to be added. Last year was a record year for civil aircraft orders as airlines rushed to replace old planes.

Pre-tax profits from continuing operations were £276 million in 1997, up from £235 million in 1996. Turnover rose to £4.33 billion, from £3.9 billion. Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to 15.16p. The company said that it hoped to sustain double-digit earnings growth over the next four years.

John Rose, chief executive, sought to allay fears that profits will be hit by the Asian financial crisis. He said that there have been no cancellations from Asian airlines, although the group does expect new orders to slow in the short term. About 90 per cent of last year's orders were from North America and Europe.

A dividend of 3.7p, due on July 6, makes 5.9p for the year, up 11 per cent.

# BIL's British investments shine

By KATHY LIPARI

BRIERLEY Investments, the New Zealand investment group, yesterday forecast its UK investments would perform strongly in 1998 but warned the Asian crisis would delay its growth targets.

The company reported net

profit of NZ\$120.7 million (£41.6 million) up from NZ\$116.1 million in the six months to December 31. Pre-tax earnings fell 19 per cent to NZ\$100.9 million.

Thistle Hotels, the UK hotels operator in which BIL holds a 46 per cent stake, this week reported a 9 per cent rise

in operating profit to £12.5 million in 1997.

English, Welsh and Scottish Railway, which is 10 per cent owned by BIL, also performed well. However, Istock, the brick manufacturer 30 per cent owned by BIL, continues to perform poorly.

In Australia BIL earned a

\$219 million (£81.1 million) profit from the A\$584 million sale of its 7 per cent holding in the retail Coles Myer.

The Asian crisis has affected investments in the region, hitting its holdings in Air New Zealand and New Zealand casino interests particularly hard, BIL said.

# Universal disposal nets £24m for Lloyds

LLOYDS TSB has netted a £24 million profit on the sale of Universal Credit, an unsecured loan business, to the Paragon Group, formerly known as National Home Loans, a specialist in first mortgages and unsecured lending. The buyer is financing the deal through a £48.4 million rights issue. The balance of funds will be used to securitise and support Universal Credit's £234 million loan book.

Lloyds TSB said that Universal no longer fitted its long-term strategy after a review of its consumer finance business. The sale is the latest in a string of sales that most recently included International Factors, Jonathan Perry, Paragon chairman, said the deal was in line with the group's strategy of generating business through intermediaries. Universal deals exclusively through brokers, timeshare salesmen and affinity partnerships. Mr Perry said Paragon had been transformed from a mortgage lender with £700 million of poor quality lending to a consumer finance house with a high quality loan book.

# Independent talks

THE Mirror Group and Dublin-based Independent Newspapers have confirmed they are in talks about their jointly owned Independent and Independent on Sunday titles. Shares in Independent Newspapers fell from 385p to 377 1/2 p but Mirror Group rose from 179p to 181 1/2 p. A brief announcement to the Stock Exchange said the announcement came in response to Press speculation. The Irish group and Mirror Group each own 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing.

# Renishaw half-year rise

RENISHAW, the manufacturer of precision instruments for measurement and control, lifted operating profits to £9.09 million from £7.79 million in the half year to December 31. Pre-tax profits were £9.75 million, which compared with £10.79 million previously when there was an exceptional property disposal credit of £1.9 million. Adjusted earnings rose 9 per cent to 9.5p a share. The interim dividend is increased to 3.32p from 2.89p. The shares rose 1 1/4 p to 366p.

# Ockham lifts payout

OCKHAM HOLDINGS, the insurance group that owns Wise Speke stockbrokers, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits, from £9 million to £7.7 million, in the year to December 31 although earnings rose from 8.1p to 10.1p. The total dividend for the year rises from 4p to 4.5p after payment of a 3p final. Wise Speke lifted profits from £1.5 million to £2.4 million. The shares rose 7p to 128 1/2 p. Ockham simplified its structure last year and raised its participation in Highway, the motor syndicate.

# Dalgety in sale talks

DALGETY is in talks over the possible sale of Dalgety Agriculture to its management. Analysts estimate the division could be worth £50 million, plus working capital. The disposal will leave the former foods and agribusiness group with only one activity - pig breeding. Paul Kirk, chief executive of Dalgety's agricultural supplies division and a main board director, is understood to have been granted an exclusive negotiating period while he puts a bid together.

# Compensation call

THE Investors Compensation Scheme has urged clients of four former financial firms to come forward if they have lost money. The four firms - Mobile Financial Services of Southampton, John Taylor Investment & Asset Management of Leicester, Northborough Financial Management of 23 Finsbury Close, London, and Taylor Insurance & Investments of Plymouth - have ceased trading and cannot meet investors' claims. The ICS is working on 22 cases in connection with them.

# Astec investors' action

THREE minority shareholders in Astec, the power conversion company, have launched High Court action against Emerson Electric, the US company that owns 51 per cent of Astec, over its plan to oust Astec board members and halt dividend payments. Electra Fleming, Norwich Union and Equitable Life allege Emerson's proposals act against the interest of other shareholders. The action is supported by institutions speaking for about 25 per cent of Astec.

# Southern Water issue

SOUTHERN WATER is raising £100 million via a bond issue, fulfilling a commitment made to Ian Byatt, the water regulator, when it was taken over by ScottishPower for £1.67 billion two years ago. The bond issue, which matures in 2008, was assigned an A plus rating by Standard & Poor's, the rating agency. The bond issue guarantees the availability of financial information sought by Mr Byatt, while stopping short of a full share listing.

# Financier arrested

A FINANCIER wanted for questioning about the disappearance of £7 million of clients' money has been arrested in Oklahoma, US. Extradition proceedings are to begin immediately to have George Finbar Ross returned to Belfast to face charges after the collapse of his company left him owing money to more than 1,200 people, most of them pensioners. Ross, 49, fled to America when his Gibraltar-registered International Investments Ltd crashed in 1994.

# British Bio 'loss in line'

BRITISH BIOTECH, which recently had to delay the launch of its pancreatic drug, said the £30.9 million it lost in the nine months to January 31 was in line with budget. The loss, up from an £8.1 million loss in the previous year, reflected higher research and development spending of £32 million and lower income from its collaborative partners. Keith McCullagh, chief executive, said he was encouraged by the progress of the final stage trials of marimastat, its cancer drug.

# Watchdog fines Quilter £125,000

By RICHARD MILES

QUILTER Fund Management (QFM), a subsidiary of Commercial Union, the insurer, has been fined £125,000 by a City regulator for a series of compliance failures dating back to 1992.

QFM, formerly known as Foster & Braithwaite Fund Management, has agreed to pay approximately £55,000 in compensation to 651 personal equity plan investors as a result of its problems.

Imro, the regulator of investment management firms, has also ordered QFM to pay costs of £55,636. The company's former owner, Credit Commercial de France, has agreed to pick up the tab for the fine, compensation and regulatory costs.

After a routine inspection visit in April 1996, Imro discovered a string of compliance breaches, most significantly its failure to segregate client money from its own funds. QFM also failed to reclaim tax on behalf of PEP investors for five consecutive years up to April 1997.

QFM did not contest any of the charges made by Imro. Barrie Catchpole, managing director of Quilter & Co. QFM's stockbroking parent, said the difficulties related to Foster & Braithwaite fund management operations before the firm's merger with Quilter Goodson in May 1996.

Mr Catchpole added that Quilter quickly recognised the problems and took action.

# MMC looks into mobile 'rip-off' accusation

By PETER FOSTER

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission is to launch an inquiry into the price of calling mobile phones after the telecoms regulator said that companies were "ripping off" consumers.

The move follows an 18-month investigation by Ofel, which yesterday accused BT and operators including Vodafone and Cellnet of exploiting their market power to overcharge customers.

Calls to mobile telephones are almost five times as expensive as conventional calls, the report found, despite recent rate reductions by both companies. Daytime calls to mobiles currently cost BT customers 32p a minute, compared with just 6.7p for a fixed-rate national call.

Don Cruickshank, director-general of Ofel, recommended that calls to mobiles should cost no more than 20p per minute, a 12p reduction on current rates.

Mr Cruickshank said: "Vodafone, Cellnet and BT are using their control of this bottleneck, and their market power to charge customers too much. I think it is fair to say being 'ripped off' is the right phrase."

The mobile phone companies were quick to defend themselves against Ofel's charges. Both Cellnet and Vodafone pointed to significant reductions already achieved over the past two years.

# BA to broaden its horizons with financial services arm

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH AIRWAYS is set to expand its financial services arm, which includes credit cards, foreign exchange services and travel insurance, but it has denied that it intends to "do a Sainsbury's" and go into full-scale banking.

The flag-carrier, which runs regular offers for its 600,000 UK Executive Club members, is seeking to bring its various financial services interests under one roof. It is advertising for marketing executives to take on an expanded role, but said it was wrong to read too much into the move. A spokes-

man said: "We have not given any clear indication of getting into banking. We are not going to do a Sainsbury's."

BA is understood to have held talks in the past with a large financial services group with a view to selling products on the back of the BA brand. Executive Club members are offered tailor-made deals on Diners Club charge cards and mobile phones. Air Miles are awarded for credit card spending. Avis car rental and Traveler foreign exchange services.

Speculation was sparked by

a recruitment advertisement this week, which made reference to embarking upon "a new journey into the world of personal finance."

BA would hardly be the first UK household name to seek to cash in on its valuable franchise. Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer are making a big push into personal banking and financial services. So, too, are Shell, General Motors and BT. Richard Diamond's Virgin Group offers a range of financial services, including banking, pensions and Peps.

	Bank	Sell
Australia \$	2.28	2.28
Austria Sch	22.01	22.52
Canada Fr	64.89	64.98
Canada Cdn	2.472	2.584
Cyprus Cyp£	0.918	0.948
Denmark Dkr	11.87	11.98
Finland Mk	8.92	9.07
France Fr	10.48	9.70
Germany Dm	3.16	2.91
Greenland Dk	4.98	4.93
Hong Kong \$	13.29	12.32
India Rupee	132	117
Israel Sheq	2.09	1.77
Italy Lit	4.36	3.63
Japan Yen	151.38	137.25
New Zealand \$	2.46	2.27
Norway Kr	13.04	12.10
Portugal Esc	217.94	202.91
S Africa R	4.425	4.53
Spain Ps	284.37	262.78
Sweden Nkr	15.07	12.91
Switzerland Fr	2.58	2.46
Turkey Lira	388.03	388.03
USA \$	1.754	1.719

Notes: See small description below. Rates only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates set at close of trading yesterday.

## Zeneca: the benefits of business focus

1997 Business highlights

- Group profit before tax up 7%; 24% at constant currency.
- Sales of anti-cancer products increased by 21%\*, with further success for the recently-launched therapies.
- Strong growth of new oral asthma treatment, particularly in the US where it already commands nearly 9% of the asthma control market.
- First launches, including the UK and US, of two new products: a treatment for migraine and a schizophrenia therapy.
- Further enhancement of the pharmaceuticals research and development pipeline which now comprises 87 development projects, including 26 new chemical entities.
- Strengthened position as one of the world's top three crop protection companies.
- Good volume growth for non-selective herbicides, particularly Touchdown, reinforcing leading position in sector.
- Successful international launch of the Amistar family of fungicides, now registered in 37 countries for use on 20 crops. Further expansion of fungicide portfolio through acquisition of Brava, which complements Amistar.
- Benefits of Specialties' restructuring delivers 41%\* increase in profit, after adjusting for disposals. Opening of two major new manufacturing facilities and increase in strategic research provides for future growth.

\*at constant currency

## ZENECA BRINGING IDEAS TO LIFE

The 1997 Annual Report will be mailed to shareholders on 30 March 1998. Non-shareholders may obtain copies thereafter by writing to The Secretary, Zeneca Group PLC, 15 Stanhope Gate, London W1Y 6LN or by email request to webmaster@zcco.zeneca.com



**H**ave you noticed how this Government loves supermarkets? This week Tony Blair has suggested that, in the interests of increasing local democracy, perhaps polling booths should be installed among the groceries. Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, may be able to afford to have his groceries delivered by Fortnum & Mason but he nonetheless wants supermarkets to play an integral part in developing savings plans for those whose financial affairs may not stretch to off-shore trusts.

And it seems that Labour may be exploring ways of involving the likes of Tesco and Sainsbury even more closely in the workings of the nation. In particular, there are suggestions that they might handle state payments to individuals. Post Office Counters currently process the cash benefits that are paid out to pensioners and other claimants. The queues that gather in some branches are testimony to the patchy efficiency of this system.

So, behind closed doors, forward thinking individuals in government have begun to explore how the distribution could be changed and, inevitably, their thoughts turned to the checkout. Selling stamps is no longer the prerogative of the Post Office, which anyhow franchises many of its outlets. Why should some of its other functions not be shared? Financial services are already on offer at the supermarket,

# Ringing endorsement of checkouts



## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

through links with established operators. The launch of the Tesco bank may have had its teething problems but, in part at least, they were occasioned by the customers' enthusiasm for the concept — and the generous interest rates on offer.

Becoming an agent of government does have its downside. A cut in benefit levels or administrative muddle courtesy of the Department of Social Security could lead to customers being completely cheesed off with the grocer, if he was the man in the front line.

But just as NatWest is prepared to risk a few delinquent students on its books in exchange for the chance to sign up all those who may one day be earning post-graduate salaries, the supermarkets would have much to gain from the arrangement.

This Government does seem keen to explore partnerships with business, and if business is to be interested, there will have to be profit in those partnerships. Tesco is said to be particularly attuned to government thinking on these lines, with its £12 million pledge to the Millennium Dome, a shrewd move towards winning goodwill in Downing Street. Intriguingly, Tesco and NatWest

are two of the companies involved in the "New Vision for Business", a move set up with the encouragement of Tony Blair.

But directors there, and in many other boardrooms, will be wrestling with a delicate problem. How should they reply to Jack Straw's invitation to attend this year's Gala Dinner on April 23? Tony Blair will be in attendance. Tickets are £500 a head. Mr Straw says they will be much in demand.

### Tokyo collection out of season

The Japanese Jusco organisation has had reason to regret its 1990 decision to buy 15 per cent of Laura Ashley at 85p a share. As chaotic management has devastated the clothing and furniture chain, the price has headed south, hitting 20p in January as the full extent of its problems became clear. Hara-

kiri for the guilty Japanese executive must have been one option. Instead, Jusco is sending a much-needed transfusion of £9.5 million to Laura Ashley.

This generous gesture is dressed up in the sort of frills that Laura loved. Jusco is paying £8 million to up its stake in Laura Ashley Japan from 59.3 per cent to 72.3 per cent and LAJ is paying another £1.5 million to Laura Ashley in compensation for putting a limit on the increasing of royalty levels. These are rising from 2 per cent to 3 per cent now but will go no further. It is a payment akin to that made to Granada directors to make up for the loss of something that might never have come their way. But it provides useful cash for Laura Ashley when it certainly needs it.

Venture capitalists have all run their tape measures over the company and not been tempted to move any closer. The rescue being attempted by

David Hoare and his team will take time if — and it remains a big if — it is ever to succeed. The United States operation has to be completely restructured, with Ann Iverson's extravagant expansion unwound. Even harder, the company has to see if it can produce things people want to buy. A new designer has been recruited from the Ralph Lauren stable, and Nick Ashley, the founder's son who fancies himself as her successor, has been seen about the place rather less of late.

David Hoare will really be considered to be making an impact if he manages to keep Nick's father, Sir Bernard, at bay. The Ashley family retain a 35 per cent holding in the company and it seems that Sir Bernard's reluctance to see this severely diluted may have been the sticking point for potential investors.

Next month, the company will reveal dreadful trading figures

for the year to January. The fact being trumpeted yesterday, that the Japanese joint venture makes around £5 million of profit, is not enough to compensate for the dire performance elsewhere. The company may be desperate to find some good news but now is hardly the time to enthrone investors over the prospect of a Far Eastern flotation.

### Markets pause before the ...

**H**ang on a minute. The economy, the authorities and the stock market are in one of those moments of suspended animation when the buoyant trends of consumer spending, house sales and share price gains have paused. The question is whether they have paused for rest, like an athlete catching breath before the next leg of the race, or are pausing agonisingly, like a condemned man at the end of a plank about to plunge into the briny.

The Bank of England is clearly inclined to the former but tinged with a nagging fear. Decelerating growth can easily turn to a dead stop. The February pause makes it right to delay decisions.

If the CBI's distributive trades panel is right, the pause will last into April. Most of the Bank eight now realise that manufacturers are struggling to cope with the strength of sterling, like tiring slaves on a treadmill. Any further boost to sterling, even an expectation of higher rates will cause nasty accidents.

For that reason, no interest rate news was not treated as good news on the stock market. Profit warnings keep coming each side of the Atlantic. At home, bank shares have risen so dizzily, about 70 per cent in 15 months, that investors are still anticipating. Meanwhile, as the Abbey National and Halifax results made clear, too many lenders are chasing cautious consumers for comfort. A pause also gives investors time to think what can go wrong. Quite a lot actually.

### Hotel tip

LADBROKE has recovered strongly and is now serving investors well. But it keeps missing the hotel prizes. Sheraton has gone and Bass outgunned it to add the Inter-Continental marquee to Holiday Inns. Now the loosed end in the industry is that separation of Hilton North America, which failed to win Sheraton, and Ladbroke's Hilton rest of the world. In the palm court of grand hotel, the music has surely not stopped.

# More O'Ferrall bought by Clear Channel of US

By CHRIS AVRES

**MORE O'FERRALL**, one of the leading names in the British advertising industry, has been bought for £466 million by Clear Channel Communications of the US.

Clear Channel, one of the biggest media conglomerates in America and listed in New York, yesterday stamped the City by launching an agreed 1.0425p per share offer for More Group, which owns the More O'Ferrall billboards business. More Group also sells advertising space on street sites such as bus shelters, supermarkets and benches.

Mark Mays, president of Clear Channel, admitted that he had paid a high price. "It was a very full price, more than we would have liked to pay," he said yesterday.

More Group employs more than 1,000 people in 22 countries and is known for the political battles it fights to secure lucrative markets. Last month, the company battled with JCDecaux, its French rival, over advertising contracts in Glasgow and New York. The competition between the two groups led many to speculate that JCDecaux would launch a bid for smaller More Group.

Clear Channel is based in San Antonio, Texas, and owns 180 radio stations, 18 television stations and about 88,000 billboards. It also has several



More's Roger Parry will enjoy an £800,000 incentive

stakes in other large international media companies.

Clear Channel's bid represents a 25 per cent premium to More Group's closing price on Wednesday. Roger Parry,

More Group's chief executive and a former BBC radio journalist, will sell his £500,000 stake in More Group and convert his options — worth about £2 million — into

Clear Channel options. He will also receive a long-term incentive payment of about £800,000 on top of his £30,000 salary.

The company has no major shareholders, with the directors holding about 1 per cent of the company's equity. Mr Parry said: "We think this is a good deal for our shareholders, because we need a lot of investment. Clear Channel clearly gives us access to low-cost capital."

Mark Mays added: "This is a great diversification for us as well as an opportunity to expand globally. Not only do we get a great portfolio, but also we get a great management team."

He added that no board members were expected to leave the company, and that More Group would still enjoy a significant level of independence. He anticipated a surge of investment by the group in the US.

More Group, which was founded in 1936 and went public in 1973, published its results for the year to December 31 yesterday. Pre-tax profits advanced 40 per cent, from £18 million to £25 million, on turnover up 41 per cent, from £103 million to £144 million. Earnings grew 20 per cent, from 36p to 43.3p per share, and a second interim dividend of 12.5p makes a total payout for the year of 16.4p, up from 15p.

### ITV adverts 'too costly'

ITV executives were given a warning yesterday that television advertising money could be diverted to other countries or markets because airtime is too costly (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Michael Hebel, chairman of the advertising committee of Unilever, said that the cost of ITV airtime had risen 44 per cent in the past five years. "They should be ashamed of it. It's an appalling performance for a brand leader," Mr Hebel told a conference of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA).

Times Media, pages 45-48

# Royal & SunAlliance fails to impress City

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

**BOB MENDELSON**, Royal & SunAlliance's new chief executive, made clear yesterday that he would pursue acquisitions in the personal finance sector in Europe and the US to grow the composite insurer's business where he felt that it was underweight.

Analysts, however, said that such companies were too expensive and expressed disappointment that the insurer's final results were below market expectations at £809 million before exceptional (up from £706 million) for the year to 31 De-

ember. They had expected 1997 profits of between £869 million and £890 million. Even news of a £145 million convertible bond buyback and the possibility of a buyback of 5 per cent of the shares failed to lift the stock and its price finished 13.2p down at 739.5p.

Analysts said that the buyback programme was small in relation to the group's excess capital, which they estimate at £1 billion. However, Mr Mendelson, who replaced Richard Gamble in a boardroom shake-up last December, said

that any buyback would have to be gradual for tax reasons.

The dividend was in line with expectations at 21p (1996: 19p), with a 13.85p final.

The results were depressed by a £64 million restructuring cost arising from merging Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance in 1996. Mr Mendelson forecast that annual savings would rise to £235 million from the end of 1998, up from previous estimates of £175 million. A further 300 jobs, mostly overseas, are to be added to 5,000 job losses initially forecast.

# Ladbroke plans Hilton expansion

By DOMINIC WALSH

**UNABASHED** by its failure to buy Inter-Continental Hotels, Ladbroke Group yesterday revealed plans to open 40 luxury Hilton International properties over the next three years.

Peter George, chief executive, said the 40 new contracts would contribute an average profit of \$800,000 (£486,000) each in their second full year of operation.

Mr George also revealed plans to test a three-star hotel concept, called Hilton Garden Inns. The brand is being developed in the Americas by Hilton Hotels Corporation. Ladbroke's US partner, but Ladbroke expects to build two units in Brazil at a cost of about \$10 million apiece before fran-

chising the concept in emerging countries. He said the two companies continued to discuss the possibility of an outright merger, but said: "The obstacles are substantial."

Ladbroke reported a 39 per cent jump in pre-tax profits last year to £226.3 million. The hotels division lifted underlying profits 18 per cent to £177.1 million, while betting and gaming rose 31 per cent to £111.1 million.

Ladbroke lifted earnings per share from 10.44p to 14.82p and the final dividend is 4.51p, making 7.11p (6.2p). This includes 0.29p for delaying payment until April 6 1999, saving £12 million in advance corporation tax.

# Enterprise chief attacks oil job cuts

By CARL MORTIMER, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

**PIERRE JUNGELS**, chief executive of Enterprise Oil, yesterday criticised the oil industry for sacking too many people in the last recession.

Referring to soaring drilling costs and staff shortages in the upstream sector, Mr Jungels said: "The last downsizing was overdone. If you kick out 30 per cent of your staff, you lose some bright people. And if you don't hire enough graduates, you have a hiatus."

He said that oil service companies had brought rigs out of mothballs, but lacked qualified staff. "So, a well that should take 30 days to drill takes 60 days," he said. "It takes years to train a driller."

Mr Jungels' comments came as Enterprise Oil reported a fall in net profits from £142 million to £127 million for last year. The company suffered a 7 per cent decline in oil production and a margin squeeze from low oil prices and higher costs.

Mr Jungels said that two North Sea projects, Clair, west of the Shetlands, and Valhall, in the Norwegian sector, may be deferred. He indicated that other projects could be hit if the price of oil remains at current levels. A number of projects were "getting near the danger zone", he said.

The dividend for the year is 17.4p, up from 17p, after adjusted earnings per share of 23.3p (20p).

# WH Smith moves on Menzies

By JON ASHWORTH



Mackay: driving changes

**WH SMITH** is close to buying the newsagent business of John Menzies. The purchase would accelerate the reshaping of WH Smith that began last month when it sold Waterstones, the bookstore chain, in a £380 million deal.

Buying Menzies shops would give WH Smith access to Scotland, where it has long been under-represented. The deal would further open the door to railway stations — an area in which WH Smith has been keen to expand.

An announcement on the terms of an outline deal is thought to be imminent. Menzies

announced in January that it was putting its bookshops and newsagents up for sale. It is still seeking a buyer for its loss-making Early Learning Centre business, acquired in 1985.

The group is the UK's second-biggest newspaper distributor after WH Smith, and is seeking to become a leading player in distribution. It is a big airport cargo handler.

Changes at Menzies are being driven by David Mackay, appointed chief executive last year. Unravelling the sale in January, he said:

"Chains such as Woolworth have moved into our markets; supermarkets too. We believe the way forward is to concentrate on distribution."

High street competitors, including Forbays and Martins, had been tipped as front-runners for the Menzies retail chain.

Serious discussions were held with Alchemy Partners, a private equity partnership led by Jon Moulton, but talks are understood to have foundered.

Shares in Menzies rose 31p to 432.5p. WH Smith closed 6.2p lower at 492.5p.

## Zeneca:

### the results of business focus

**Financial highlights**  
(for the twelve months ended 31 December 1997)

	1997	1996	% change	Constant currency %
Sales	£5.19bn	£5.36bn	-3%	+7%
Research and Development	£653m	£602m	+8%	
Profit before taxation	£1.08bn	£1.01bn*	+7%	+24%
Earnings per Ordinary Share	77.0p	70.6p*	+9%	
Dividend per Ordinary Share	38.5p	35.0p	+10%	
Return on Sales	20.9%	19.4%		

\*before exceptional items

**Sir David Barnes, Chief Executive of Zeneca, said:**

Strong volume growth, the successful launch of new products and adherence to a consistent strategy have produced another fine Group performance. In Pharmaceuticals, 21% of total sales are now attributable to products launched since 1995, contributing strongly to the 17% volume growth in this business. In Agrochemicals, *Arnistar* has already become a leading fungicide in a number of markets. The benefits of Specialties' restructuring are now evident: Industrial Colours and LifeScience Molecules both produced volume growth of over 20%.

## ZENECA

### BRINGING IDEAS TO LIFE

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

'Overvalued' banks fall on broker's comments

HAS the City's love affair with the banking sector come to an end? That seemed to be the case yesterday as sharp falls were recorded across the board for the second day running.



Tony Allan, of BGR, saw the shares of the specialist food and restaurant group, close at 220p, a premium of 60p

It came after the banking team at NatWest Markets, the broker, began urging clients to begin selling off the sector after a disappointing dividend season that has seen results fail to match the high rating of the shares.

January, Mezzies closed 31p dearer at 432 1/2p. DPS Furniture continued to reel from Wednesday's profit warning with the shares losing a further 2 1/2p at 439p, thereby stretching the loss during the past two days to 148 1/2p. Carpetright also shed another 8 1/2p at 414p.

Other losers in the sector included Bank of Scotland, 25p to 632p. Barclays, 6p to 417.42. HSBC 62p to 18.08. NatWest Bank, 37p to 10.53. Royal Bank of Scotland, 33p to 885p. and Standard Chartered, 20p to 838p.

James Johnson, at rival broker Credit Lyonnais said: "In the past the results season tended to be followed by a period of reflection. The mortgage banks have met expectations but are failing to live up to their share prices."

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Table of international stock indices: New York (midday), Dow Jones, S&P Composite, Tokyo, Nikkei Average, Hong Kong, Hang Seng, Amsterdam, AEX Index, Sydney, ASX 200, Frankfurt, DAX, Singapore, Straits, Brussels, General, Paris, CAC-40, Zurich, S&K Gen, London, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 350, FTSE Europe 100, FTSE All-Share, FTSE Non Financials, FTSE Smallcap, FTSE Govt Secur, Barclays, FTSE Volume, US, Dow Jones, German Mark, Exchange Index, Bank of England official close (open), RPIX, RPI, RPI-X.

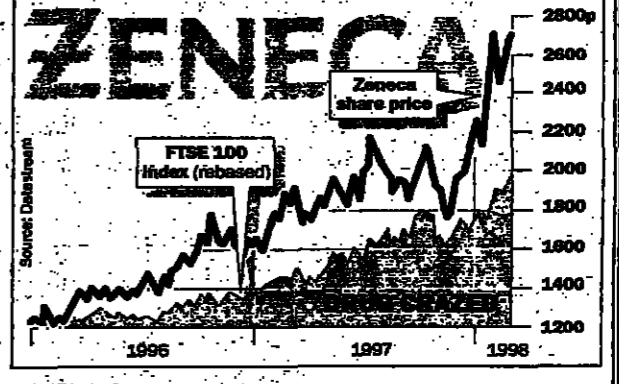
Golden egg may be bad

POULTRY, furniture, tea and push-flats on the South Bank. Such a portfolio of businesses ought to be grist to the mill of investment bankers. Indeed, with such a lowly share rating and annual cash flow of £190 million, one might wonder why Hillwood has not already tempted a corporate raider.

The reasons soon become apparent and raise doubts about the extra value available from the proposed "restructuring". For George Gower, chief executive, Fairview Housing is clearly the goose that lays the golden egg. Free that goose from the lowly rated and overvalued Hillwood and its 25 per cent profit margin will make everyone rich.

It sounds too easy, it is because the market will not be so easily convinced. Even given a generous rating of 11-12 times

Zeenea is making good progress with the rollout of several promising products. Zomig for migraine is already out-selling Imigran, one of Glaxo Wellcome's biggest-selling products in some territories. But on its own, this progress does not justify the current rating. Zeenea's shares are vulnerable if no bid appears.



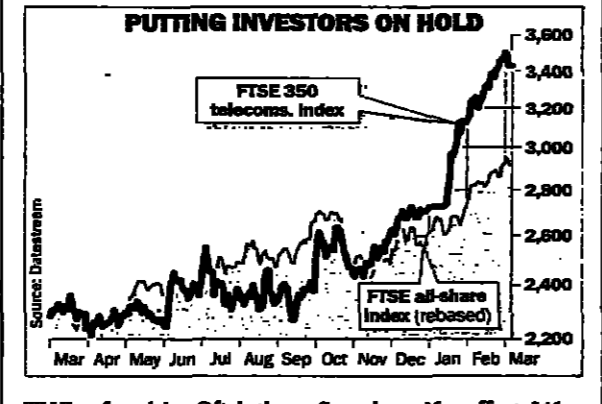
Zeenea

CONSENSUS has it that Zeenea's days as an independent company are numbered - hence the share price's recent extravagant break-away from its (already fast-moving) trendline. Since there is an element of madness abroad in the pharmaceutical sector, it would be foolish to rule out a takeover.

Rolls-Royce

THE City is agreed that Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, has done an admirably ruthless job of wrenching orders from its big US rivals, Pratt & Whitney and GE. It is the eventual profitability of these orders that divides opinion.

PUTTING INVESTORS ON HOLD



THE referral by OfTel, the industry regulator, of the cost of mobile telephone calls to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission came as no surprise. The refusal by some phone companies to comply with the order from the regulator to cut costs left no choice.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major stock price changes: Athlone Extrusions, BGR, Bass B, Diageo B, Eurotunnel 01/03 Wts 10, Maudslayi, Quadrant Hiltire, Sanctuary Wats, Wates City n/p (94), RBS, BOC, Meritas (Jtr), Charcot Gp, Arjo Wiggins, SmithKline, Sun Life & p, Gateway, Alstom, Br Airways, BOC, Reuters, Shered Int, More Gp, Midland, Chemring, FALLS: Old Fields Prop, Danes Be Sy, Abacus Recruit, Johnson Math, DFS Furniture, Hutch Whamp, Shire Pharm, Molins, Searles, Oxford Inst, HT Estate, Premier Farnell, Bank Scotland, Vodafone, Ryd Scot, London, Reed Int, DCS Gp, Energy.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices: COCOA, RUBBER, WHITE SUGAR (FOB), MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices: BRENT OILS, GAS OIL, RUBBER, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures: Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Eurodollar, Three Mth Euroswap, Three Mth ECU, FTSE 100.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates: Prime Bank Bills, Sterling Money Rates, Overnight, Local Authority Depo, Sterling CDs, Dollar CDs, Building Society CDs.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits: Corby, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Geneva, London, Zurich.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bullion & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices: Bullion, Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates: Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Frankfurt, Geneva, London, Madrid, Milan, Montreal, New York, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm, Tokyo, Vienna, Zurich.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Greece, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, USA & Bermuda, Venezuela.

right defa

parad



Losses reduced at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: 1997/98 High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS.

Table with columns: 1997/98 High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections: DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE.

Table with columns: 1997/98 High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections: INVESTMENT TRUSTS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, MINING, LEISURE & HOTELS, OIL & GAS.

Table with columns: 1997/98 High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections: MEDIA, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS GENERAL, RETAILERS FOOD, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: 1997/98 High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections: ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET, SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years), INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation).

Table with columns: 1997/98 High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sections: ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET, SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years), INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation).

KUONI Travel Holding Ltd. has acquired the entire capital of Euro Lloyd Reisebüro from Karstadt and Lufthansa. We assisted Kuoni as financial advisor. STG-Coopers & Lybrand AG Corporate Finance. Zurich, February 1998.

Hanson for spoom di

Results exceed expectation

# Hanson hopes for speedy £500m disposals

By KATHY LIPARI

HANSON, the former conglomerate, admitted its restructuring was taking longer than anticipated but hoped to garner £500 million from its disposals that would be finalised shortly.

The company, now largely a building materials business, said its investment programme involving the sale of Hanson Properties, Grove Worldwide, Spectrum, Air Hanson and Melody Radio was well underway.

The market had hoped for further news yesterday, particularly on the sale of Grove, the crane business. It is valued at about £350 million but there is concern that the economic turmoil in the Far East may lower the sale price.

Andrew Dougal, chief executive, said proceeds from the sales would leave the company with net cash that would be used for acquisitions and reinvestment in core business.

Hanson had debts of £217 million at the end of 1997. Pre-tax profits rose 8.3 per cent to £224.7 million in the year to December 31 1997, slightly higher than the £220 million forecast and enough to prompt some analysts to upgrade forecasts for the current year. Natwest is now expecting pre-tax profits of about £260 million for 1998.

Mr Dougal said: "We have made great strides in the last year turning this rump of businesses into a leading building materials company and expect this to continue through bolt-on acquisitions, capital expenditure and geographical expansion."

Hanson was involved in a four-way demerger last year with Imperial Tobacco, Millennium Chemicals and The Energy Group spinning off from the former conglomerate.

Turnover for 1997 fell to

£2.39 billion from £2.40 billion in 1996 as a result of currency impacts and the sale of Hanson Electrical in April. Earnings per share before exceptional items rose to 29p from 26.8p resulting in a final dividend of 8p, taking the total to 12p for the year.

Exceptional items added £384.6 million to profits. The gains came from the release of American environmental provisions worth £430 million. An independent review in America knocked £430 million off provisions for the US chemical operations at Koppers, acquired as part of Beazer in 1991, leaving them at £404 million.

Mr Dougal said the US was likely to be the centre of growth but opportunities existed in Asia and Central Europe. A share buyback was a possibility but this was not a preferred option. Hanson shares finished unchanged at 32½p yesterday.



Retail success: Nikki Beckett, managing director of NSB Retail Systems, the provider of software solutions for retailers that joined the Alternative Investment Market last year, reported 1997 pre-tax profits of £837,000, up from £296,000, on turnover up 50 per cent to £3.3 million. Earnings were 6.9p a share, compared with 2.6p. There is no dividend

## Ocean yet to track its quarry

By GEORGE SIVELL

OCEAN, the freight management group, is still looking for ways of spending the £328 million proceeds of the sale of OIL, the offshore services business, last year.

John Allan, chief executive, said he would be disappointed if a deal was not agreed this year. When Ocean sold OIL, it made clear that the proceeds would be used to build the logistics business.

Ocean raised underlying profits 16 per cent to £73.5 million in the year to December 31 on sales up 7.3 per cent to £1.125 billion. There was a £231 million exceptional gain on the OIL disposal and Ocean ended the year with net cash of £273 million.

Underlying earnings increased 15 per cent to 32.5p, out of which total dividends rose 9.2 per cent to 16.6p. The final rose from 10.2p to 11.2p. The shares rose 5½p to 707½p. Operating profits from logistics rose 18 per cent to £28 million.

## Elementis confident despite fall in profits

By MARTIN BARROW

ELEMENTIS, the speciality chemicals group formerly known as Harrison & Crosfield, yesterday reported a fall in profits from continuing operations but said that it had an "outstanding" base from which to develop after restructuring.

Last year, operating profit from continuing businesses fell to £52.4 million, from £79.1 million, before exceptional items. The adverse impact of currency movements was estimated at £14 million, with £8.5 million relating to the performance chemicals division. The strength of sterling had a severe impact on remaining food and agriculture businesses, which are to be sold.

More than £450 million was raised last year from the sale of the group's Harcos timber and builders' merchants business to Meyer International and disposal of a large part of its interests in food and agriculture. Since the year-end, more than £400 million has been returned to shareholders.

Trading as Elementis since the start this year, the company acquired Rheox, a US additives group, for \$465 million (£290 million), completing the deal in January.

The performance chemicals division, which has absorbed Rheox, saw operating profits fall to £43.4 million, from £48.8 million, last year. Chemical distribution contributed £1.2 million, up from £900,000, while profits from Linatex, the industrial division, declined to £4.8 million, from £6.2 million. Exceptional charges totalled £191.8 million, including £169.9 million against the food and agricultural businesses before their disposal.

Adjusted earnings for 1997 were 8.8p a share, down from 11.1p. After the cash distribution to shareholders, there is no final dividend, leaving the total for the year at 3.6p a share, down from 9p. The shares fell 2½p to 127½p.

## Eldridge to dismantle share system

Eldridge Pope shares rose 17p to 298½p after the pub operator finally revealed its proposals to dismantle its antiquated two-tier share structure. The scheme includes a scrip issue to B shareholders to compensate them for giving up their superior voting rights, on the basis of 11 ordinary shares for every 10 shares held.

The Pope family and the remainder of the board will control between 30 and 35 per cent of the single class of ordinary shares. The B shareholders will account for just under 13 per cent.

## Sanderson plan

Sanderson Bramall, the motor distributor, hopes to cut debts by the end of 1998 through asset sales and cashflow. Gearing rose to just over 100 per cent after the £53 million takeover of Charles Sidney in December. Sanderson revealed pre-tax profits up 14 per cent to £14 million in the year to December 31 on sales up 7 per cent to £642 million. Total dividend rose 15 per cent to 5.52p.

## Hughes placing

TJ Hughes, the discount department store operator, plans to raise £6.1 million through a placing and open offer after buying a new store complex in Sheffield. The one for four placing and open offer at 125p left the shares up ½p to 129½p.

## Soccer loss

Sheffield United Football Club suffered a pre-tax loss of £3.1 million in the year to December 31, a deterioration from £1.3 million for the previous year. Losses per share were 6.35p from 1.55p. There is no dividend.

## Galliford up

Galliford, the housebuilding and construction group, raised pre-tax profits from £522,000 to £764,000 in the half year to December 31. An unchanged interim dividend of 0.5p will be paid.

## Arjo results exceed City expectations

By GEORGE SIVELL

ARJO Wiggins Appleton, the paper products business, pleased the City with a 61 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £216 million for the year to December 31, more than the £209 million expected.

Analysts were also pleasantly surprised by a 6.7 per cent rise in the total dividend to 8.0p a share made possible by a 0.5p a share rise in the final payment to 5.1p. The shares rose from 186½p to 197½p in an otherwise falling market.

Arjo revealed it had squeezed annual savings of £34 million out of its carbonless paper and European coated papers divisions and is promising to get the figure up to £50 million this year.

Philippe Beylier, chief executive, said he expected the first half of 1998 to be as good as 1997, thanks to good volume growth in European and American markets and lower prices for raw paper pulp.

However, he remains con-

cerned as to the effect the Asian situation will have on world economic growth, although its impact on Arjo will be neutral as lower raw pulp prices in Asia will counter any loss of business.

M. Beylier said that Arjo could also afford to shrug off the effects of the strong pound as the damage to exports from Britain was offset by exports from overseas divisions.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, upgraded its intermediate rating of Arjo to accumulate but held its long-term rating as neutral. Earnings per share rose by 77.5 per cent to 18.1p. Gearing has fallen from 46.8 per cent to 41.1 per cent.

Ken Minton, the chairman who joined recently from Laporte, the chemicals group, said: "Reasonable demand and good capacity utilisation, together with favourable pulp costs and the benefits of restructuring, should all contribute to progress in 1998."

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'Unit Name', 'Unit Price', 'Change', etc. Includes various fund names such as 'High Income', 'Capital Growth', and 'Global Equity'.

Mitel advertisement featuring the Mitel logo, the text 'You're looking at the best investment on this page', and contact information: 'Tel: 0800 909 7070 www.mitel.com.uk'.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Longs or Lati' and 'Discover SYMPHO' with an image of a person playing a trumpet.

Oh, the irony of it all. I travel halfway round the world to take part in earnest discussions about improving the quality of cultural contacts between Britain and Australia (I'm sending us the Spice Girls and we will stop sending you *Night-bours*), suggests one wagging Aussie delegate. But who flies in to Adelaide on the same day as I do? Why, it's none other than Oasis, those model ambassadors for Cool Britannia — fresh from their jolly japes, terrorising the first-class passengers on a Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong.

"Ah ha," I thought, because I'm an on-the-ball kind of guy. "Here is an Anglo-Australian cultural contact in the flesh, if ever I saw one. Let's see how Manchester's surliest brothers go down with the great Australian public."

Well, you have to hand it to the Gallagher boys. Their music may only be pub-rock writ large and loud; their lyrics may make the script for *Teletubbies* seem profound — but they certainly have a

# Be anywhere but here now, please

world-class talent for grabbing headlines. Having lumbered up with those witty antics at 30,000ft, on what the Australian press quickly labelled "the Flight from Hell", Noel and Liam then managed to offend or irritate nearly every journalist who came into contact with them. The oral blitzkrieg spread by the "bad boys of British rock" as they wended their foul-mouthed way from Perth to Adelaide even made the main news on Australian television.

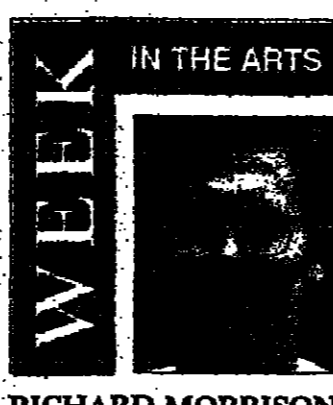
So far so good. Veterans reminisced fondly about legendary hotel-wrecking feasts from the golden age of rock. A *sacred de scandale* was eagerly awaited when Oasis reached Adelaide.

But here's the funny thing. When I entered the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, bracing myself to be battered, bruised and

biffed in a seething mass of brozzed, bouncing Aussie biceps, I found this average-sized arena (capacity 12,000) embarrassingly uncrowded. I have attended vicarage tea parties with a more dangerous ambience. Where was the rebellious youth of Australia, responding to the satanic wake-up call from Manchester's lords of misrule?

Search me, clobber. The sad fact is that Oasis attracted no more than 7,000 punters at £20 a ticket to a venue which U2 had packed solid only a week earlier at £60 a ticket. Clearly the famous Gallagher master-plan to be the "biggest rock band in the world" needs a little more work.

So what has gone wrong? The band seemed focused musically, despite Noel's weird habit of starting every number with a nerve-jangling blast of feedback.



RICHARD MORRISON

tempt. They cancelled their Adelaide concert last year, at short notice and for no compelling reason — and the slim turnout this year was the result. As one Australian journalist told me, with the bluntness characteristic of his breed: "The rock audience in this country doesn't like to be jerked around, especially by a bunch of Poms."

Then there is the extraordinary gracelessness of Oasis's stage manner. In Britain we may find their boorish, chippy attitude rather endearing. But to a foreign audience such a display of unprovoked scatological stropiness — particularly directed at kids who have forked out £20 to see their heroes in the flesh — simply seems like bad manners.

First Noel entered into an entirely pointless verbal scrap with a

punter who shouted out a comment comparing Oasis to Black Sabbath. I think he probably meant it as a compliment.

"Heavy metal? Are you taking the piss?" screamed the offended Gallagher. "That's not rock'n'roll, it's fucking sad old men trying to be young."

Then Liam made the mistake of asking the crowd whether the concert had been "worth the wait" — an allusion to the cancelled date last year. Oh dear. I don't know what sort of ecstatic response he was expecting, but the damp half-cheer he received clearly couldn't be called a ringing endorsement.

"It fucking sounds like it," a disgusted Liam ranted sarcastically. "I think I'll go home." And pausing only to kick down his microphone stand, toss his tambourine on the floor and up-end

several loudspeakers en route, off stomped this petulant rebel without a cause.

I can't say that I felt particularly proud to be British as I watched hundreds of nice Aussie teenagers recoil in bewilderment from this infantile display of prima donna pique. I doubt whether they will make the effort to see Oasis play in Adelaide next time — if there is a next time.

Still, it's only rock'n'roll. The next day Fiona Shaw and Deborah Warner flew into town to perform their now world-famous staging of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* at the Adelaide Festival — and promptly apologised to the promoter for not smashing up a plane on the way over to whip up publicity for the production.

They need not have worried. *The Waste Land* opened on Tuesday to the fiercest acclaim that Australia has probably ever bestowed on a one-woman show lasting just 37 minutes. I felt mildly optimistic again about the future of Anglo-Aussie cultural links.

# Thongs we do for Latin love

Lovers of authentic Cuban music and dance tend to get nervous about Club Tropicana. Can a show founded in Havana almost 60 years ago for rich American playboys, and which few Cubans could ever afford to see, genuinely capture the vibrant spirit of one of the most joyously spontaneous cultures in the world? And even if it can, how well would the show travel on its first ever trip to Britain?

When 30 dancers took the stage in pink feathers and silver lamé with tasselled brasieres and acres of bare flesh, the doubts increased. When the 20-piece band opened with *La Gloria Eres Tu*, a brash piece of American-influenced Latin jazz totally lacking in either the intricacy or the passion of true Cuban rhythms such as mambo, rumba and tumbao, we inwardly groaned. With the Albert Hall physically transformed for several nights into something resembling a lounge nightclub, we appeared to be in for an evening of Las Vegas-style cabaret, a show that would be more at home on Broadway than in the barrio.

Thankfully the unpromising

opening was the only low point in an otherwise outstanding show, as if the artistic director, Santiago Alfonso, had consciously decided to start from the lowest common denominator before giving us the real thing. Club Tropicana will always attract an audience because of its frenetic pace, beautiful girls and dripping eroticism. It went on to prove that at its best the show works on several more aesthetic levels too.

At its heart is the orchestra under the musical direction of Demetrio Muziz. When they sounded flat and uninspired, as in the opening sequence, the dancers and their rainbow costumes looked tacky and the mock chandeliers on their heads preposterous. When they slipped up a gear, and the horns started swinging on the syncopated mambo rhythms of Ray, Ray, Ray and the percussion kicked in on the energetic rumba of Chano En Belen, the entire mood changed. What had previously

looked ludicrous suddenly became exciting and flamboyant. The choreography is breathtakingly sensuous. The basic steps will be familiar to anyone who has taken a few salsa dance classes, but you have never seen them performed like this at the local palais. Anyone who tried would probably get arrested. By the second half the band were being out dynamic sun and cha-cha-cha rhythms as if we had all been transported back to the Caribbean. By the time they hit the Yoruba sounds of Rezo a Obbatata and Babalu, we were closer to West Africa.

Yet the unsung heroes of the show are Maria Elmira and Ramon Tabio, the overworked duo in charge of the wardrobe. I lost count after the first 15 costume changes, and Club Tropicana is a big troupe. At this point I also lost my notebook, for the dancers left the stage to mingle with the audience, cajoling us to join them. And when you are being urged to your feet by a beautiful girl wearing nothing but a few strategically placed feathers and an almost invisible thong, it would be churlish to refuse.

Hats off to the costume designers: if the opening routine looked more Las Vegas than Havana, Club Tropicana's dancers soon got into the groove



## CONCERTS: Two classic Seventies works; plus a thrilling 'secular oratorio'

### Nostalgia with a sharp edge

SUNDAY night's concert by the London Sinfonietta in the *Towards the Millennium* series intriguingly brought together two classic scores from the 1970s: Steve Reich's *Music for Eighteen Musicians* (1976) and Brian Ferneyhough's *Transit* (1972-73). Each work is utterly characteristic of the composer and each was something of a milestone, yet it is what differentiates the pieces that strikes one.

*Music for Eighteen Musicians* offers more variety of timbral colour than many a Reich score. This is not quite the puritanical stripping away to a rhythmic essence witnessed in, say, *New York Counterpoint* ten years later.

There is also more harmonic movement than usual in the first five minutes.

The title of Ferneyhough's *Transit* suggests a journey, a goal-orientated evolution in contrast to the shifting pulses and kaleidoscopic patterns of the Reich. It was inspired by an anonymous Renaissance woodcut depicting, in the composer's words, a magus "penetrating the last sphere separating the mortal from the divine". That hierarchy of spheres is reflected in the layout of forces: six vocal

solists placed at the front adjacent to solo bass flute (Sebastian Bell), oboe (Melinda Maxwell) and clarinet (Nicholas Cox); behind them an ensemble of keyboard and plucked instruments; then come percussion and trumpets, then strings, while the heavy brass on the perimeter enter towards the end to crashing effect.

Martyr Brabbins managed to secure a strong sense of progression over the 45-minute span. Ferneyhough's music is complex, but the ever-reliable London Sinfonietta rose to the occasion.

BARRY MILLINGTON

### Tippett's spiritual journey

PLANNED before Tippett's death two months ago, this London Philharmonic concert of *A Child of Our Time* became a fitting tribute to the composer. No other work of his is better known, and none explains Tippett's humanity better than this, written in response to Nazi persecution.

Perhaps it is a pity that this "secular oratorio" does not contain Tippett's greatest music. In spite of its ingenious structure, with a singing narrator and spirituals in place of chorales, the piece is uneven. Next to the magnificent arrangements of well-known spirituals, there are weaker passages of contrapuntal writing that suggest a kind of

British choral respectability. In a performance like this, though, none of these problems matter. Roger Norrington conducted with thrilling intensity, capturing both the English romanticism of the tradition in which the work is rooted, and the blazing fervour of the spirituals.

The vocal highlights of the evening were provided by the full-throated London Philharmonic Choir, but there were some fine solo contributions. The soprano Michèle Krider sang with glowing tenderness, and Michelle De Young confirmed again the steady richness of her contralto. Gerald Finley was the eloquent baritone soloist, and the tenor Anthony Rolfe Johnson completed the quartet.

Next programming brought the London Adventist Chorale into the concert with gospel songs and spirituals, including the five Tippett used in his work. Comparisons only undermined the brilliance of Tippett's touch; but there were some outstanding moments: *Jesus is a Rock* went with a swing, and *Joshua* revealed the ensemble's crisp flexibility.

JOHN ALLISON

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# Stan's one to three

STAN TRACEY

**Solo: Trio**  
(Cadillac SGCCD 06)  
WHAT better way to mark the 25th anniversary of Cadillac Records, one of the UK's most valuable independent jazz outlets, than by issuing a freshly recorded album by a pianist described by the label's founder, John Jack, as "a lifelong delight of my spirits"?

Neither Stan Tracey's material (an Ellington staple, a triple helping of Thelonious Monk, a Ron Carter blues, plus a few standards) nor his approach (the startlingly choppy rhythms, the sudden transitions from clanging chords to skipping runs, the infectious robust delight in finding new routes through familiar chord sequences) has changed overmuch down the

## JAZZ ALBUMS

years. This album — almost equally divided between solo and trio tracks featuring son Clark Tracey on drums and Andy Cleynert on bass — simply showcases the work of a world-class original.

## J-LIFE

**Tomorrow's Warriors Presents** (Dune Records DUNECD02)  
THE winners of the International Jazz Federation's 1997 European Young Jazz Artists Award and (jointly) of the more recent Perrier Young Jazz Award for ensembles, J-Life are the fruit of the tree planted in the mid-1980s by the London-based big band, the Jazz Warriors.

Their material ranges from sparkly imaginative arrangements of jazz classics by the likes of Wayne Shorter, Duke Ellington and Mongo Santamaria, through original songs written and soulfully performed by singer Julie Dexter (also a Perrier Award winner), to the odd sinuous composition by the band's main instrumental soloist, saxophonist Jason Yarle.

The quintet's sound embraces everything from soul, hip-hop and reggae to moodily earnest contemporary jazz, but the passion and commitment of all involved (the band is completed by pianist Robert Mitchell, bassist Darren Taylor and drummer Daniel Crosby) ensure that what might have been restless magic borrowing becomes uncontrived and intelligent eclecticism.

CHRIS PARKER



Eric Clapton is his usual immaculately tasteful self on *Pilgrim*, his first album of mostly new songs in nine years

# Slowhand the cat who's still got the cream

ERIC CLAPTON

**Pilgrim**  
(Warner Bros 9362-46577)  
£15.99

RICH, revered and relaxed, Eric Clapton now stands above the fray, a regal figure who has no cause to rush about writing and recording albums for the sake of it. He has already enjoyed colossal success in the 1990s with *Unplugged* and *From the Cradle*, both of which featured old material. Now comes *Pilgrim*, his first collection of (mostly) new songs in nine years, and an album, every bit as restrained and well-groomed as the man himself.

The numbers, which vary in tempo from slow to dead slow, unfold with the languid poise of a Wim Wenders movie. *River of Tears* rolls along with an almost eerie calm for the best part of two minutes before the vocal starts. *Broken Hearted*, with its gently shimmering chords and slightly Celtic feel, meanders uneventfully round the houses for nearly eight minutes. With its heartfelt, if sometimes hackneyed lyrics addressing the big spiritual questions — "How did I get here?/What have I done?" — this is an album which further mines the vein of upmarket melancholia that has been Clapton's stock-in-trade since the days of *461 Ocean Boulevard*.

But although the music is predictable and at times tiresomely middle-of-the-road, there is still a deliciously soulful quality to Clapton's performance. His guitar solos are few but all the more telling for that, especially the volley of high, howling notes he looses off towards the end of *One Chance*, the only song on the album with serious bite. And his singing on *Inside of Me* and the title track, both of which he delivers in a delicate, Curtis Mayfield-influenced falsetto, is so full of world-weary emotion that you fear he might break down at any

## NEW ALBUMS

moment. Even in the midst of all this refinement you can hear that the man still has a certifiable case of the blues.

## DUST JUNKYS

**Done & Dusted**  
(Polydor 557 043 £12.99)

THE first surprise is how anyone making a noise like this could be English, even if they do come from Manchester; the second, how brilliantly they do it. Led by rapper Nicky Lockett, who in a previous incarnation as MC Tunes enjoyed hits in the early 1990s with *The Only Rhyme that Bites* and *Tunes Splits the Atom*, Dust Junkies fit, stylistically speaking, into a line of American heavy hitters that includes the Beastie Boys, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Fun Lovin' Criminals.

*Done & Dusted* opens with the riff of Fleetwood Mac's *Oh Well*, hitched to a fat hip-hop/hunk beat and then pummeled into shape as a defining number of the new rap. Lockett's typically loathe rap: "Don't make me about the shape I'm in, I was born a Dust Junky to live in sin".

Despite the nod to Peter Green, it quickly becomes apparent that guitarist Sam Brox is a Jimi Hendrix disciple, his tough yet lyrical riffs providing the colourful instrumental fabric of songs ranging from the slow, bluesy *Middleman* to the full-throated aggression of *Get the Punk Up*.

But the key to this album's success is the compelling performance and presence of Lockett, whose gruff street-rap style incorporates the usual homeboy swagger, but also allows room for feelings of

sadness and regret to surface on *Remember*. "Too many damn skeletons to fit in one closet/So how you see it how I drop it/You don't remember the days, just the pain". This man could well become a folk hero, and this record deserves to take off like a rocket.

## THE BLUE TONES

**Return to the Last Chance Saloon**  
(Superior Quality Recordings BLUE008 £14.99)

IT IS a tricky moment for the Blue Tones. Faced with a very different pop landscape from the one that greeted their chart-topping debut album two years ago, *Return to the Last Chance Saloon* could find them either soaring heavenwards into the hallowed company of the Verve and Oasis or dropping back down to earth to join the swelling ranks of Britpop has-beens such as Sleeper and Gene.

Musically speaking much of the album is pretty good, with the pseudo-rockably strut of *Tone Blossom* and *Unspinned Arrows* recalling the best moments of Morrissey's solo career, while the current single, *Solomon Bites the Worm*, successfully distils that familiar essence of English retro-rock'n'roll which has sustained the Charlatans through thick and thin.

Less impressive is the Blue Tones' tendency to fall back on second-hand heavy rock riffs. And, despite the engagingly whimsical lyrics, Mark Morriss's singing lacks the larger-than-life personality of a Gallagher or Ashcroft. Still, at least Morriss and Co sound as if they are having a bit of fun.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (-) *Ray of Light*.....Madonna (Maverick)
- 2 (1) *Atlantic Soundtrack*.....James Horner (Sony Classical)
- 3 (3) *Let's Talk About Love*.....Celine Dion (Epic)
- 4 (2) *Urban Hymns*.....The Verve (Hut)
- 5 (12) *Melting Pot*.....Charlatans (Beggars Banquet)
- 6 (7) *Maverick a Strike*.....Finley Quayle (Epic)
- 7 (5) *Life Thru a Lens*.....Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
- 8 (4) *All Saints*.....All Saints (London)
- 9 (6) *Aquarium*.....Aquarium (Universal)
- 10 (8) *Postcards from Heaven*Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)

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The last time I saw the Count Basie Orchestra in London a bomb scare cut short the proceedings. Deep down, I was not too disappointed to have to leave early. Although we all like to make appreciative noises about one of the great institutions of the past 60 years, the Basie band was not the force it had once been. While the musicians continued to be a potent foil to singers such as Nancy Wilson and Lena Horne, their own sets had settled into a rut. To be fair to the then leader, Frank Foster, similar problems had also been apparent well before the Count's death in 1984. Grover Mitchell, another Basie alumnus who took over from Foster about three years ago, has made a significant difference.

# Nobles oblige

JAZZ GIG

So too, of course, does the club setting. Concert halls are all very well, but nothing compares to the sight and sound of a big band squeezed on to a small stage — Ronnie Scott's, in this case. More to the point, Mitchell has brought new vigour to the ensemble playing. Foster, an inspired arranger, has not been turned into an un-person. His swaggering tune *Down for the Count* was featured early on in the open-

ing set, as was his predecessor, Thad Jones's, *To You*. But Mitchell also ensures that no one could possibly mistake this band for any other.

The professorial Mitchell makes a point of showcasing hard-swinging material by Ernie Wilkins as well as Quincy Jones's emphatic *Dum Dum*. If the band was once in danger of becoming a bejewelled dowager, Mitchell has changed her into tracksuit and sweatband.

Featured vocalist Chris Murrell turned on the Joe Williams shouts on *Every Day I Have The Blues* and delivered a poignant *Skyline* which really did not need the lacrymose dedication to Diana, Princess of Wales.

CLIVE DAVIS

Life's too short and pop's too silly for its stars to mope around being, like, serious

# Lighten up, melancholy baby

One of the tragedies of living past the age of 20 — aside from realising that back shelves and being a little things that do genuinely obsess you, and that your elders weren't pretending to care about this stuff when you were younger — is seeing history repeat itself. This year is turning into 1988 at a speed guaranteed to put the wind up anyone with a sane aesthetic. It's not the Stock, Aitken and Waterman blashbacks, in the kiddie E.A. rotopop heavens, no. *Spice Up Your Life* is way better than *The Drugs Don't Work* and Aqua are a thrilling revisitation of every Cool Rule in the book. Ah, you know it's true — the baldy guy with the head the size of a fridge has the best face ever. When he opens his mouth and eyes really wide and looks like Nicola Horlick, you're told she looks like George Dawes in a wig, it's a pop gold medal moment. And the bird's bringing back two-tone hair. Aqua are way more value for money than Elastica.

So no, it's not that the creeping evil to which I refer would seek to destroy Aqua and their Danish "funning good times". Yes, the grunge 1980s spore currently multiplying in the dampness of winter is Rock Seriousness. Waterman blashbacks, in the kiddie E.A. rotopop heavens, no. *Spice Up Your Life* is way better than *The Drugs Don't Work* and Aqua are a thrilling revisitation of every Cool Rule in the book. Ah, you know it's true — the baldy guy with the head the size of a fridge has the best face ever. When he opens his mouth and eyes really wide and looks like Nicola Horlick, you're told she looks like George Dawes in a wig, it's a pop gold medal moment. And the bird's bringing back two-tone hair. Aqua are way more value for money than Elastica.

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Although one of the biggest threats to happiness in the late 1960s and early 1970s, what with all those rock operas, *Tales from Topographic Oceans* and furrowed-brow soloing, the slug of Rock Seriousness was shrivelled by the salt of punk, and only really made a comeback after Live Aid. The five years after Live Aid were the worst of all possible times if you had any desire to be amused or entertained by pop. The music industry, still smarting from being laughed at for encouraging bands to wear buckled patent leather shoes and towels on their heads during the devious New Romantic movement, was overjoyed that raising enough money to stop

some people dying for one year allowed them to become smug, self-important and pious. Phil Collins's hysterical tut-tutting about homelessness. *Another Day in Paradise*, was the end result of all that. Rock Seriousness mutated into Grunge — "We're serious and confused" — before Britpop's giddy cocaine euphoria broke the grimness for three years. But now, with the Verve, Radiohead, Spiritualized and Oasis dominating the charts and the press, the mood has reverted again to a dour, suspicious, paranoid and defensive sulk. Consider that this Christmas, for the first time in living memory, the NME's traditional picture feature starring Bands That Have Been Big This Year Dressing Up As Wizard And Characters From *Man About the*



CAITLIN MORAN

*House* had to be cancelled, as no one wanted to look "silly". Consider the number of interviews you've watched and read where some lanky pop star has studiously avoided all levity and amusement in favour of indulging in a "look at how sensitive and liberal I am" moan about the state of the world, without doing anything positive about it — such as a charity gig, free publicity for pressure groups, inclusion of information about Amnesty, International or Greenpeace on singles and albums, or giving up their entirely unorganic, un-free-range and unethical cocaine treats.

The problem is that the pop star attitude pendulum swings wildly from one extreme to the other, and never really hangs around much in the same middle ground. The basic

truth about music is that it is the most astonishing, wondrous, important thing in the whole world — and also the silliest. It can reduce you to tears but, on the other hand, look you're crying to *Bright Eyes*. Pop stars have the power to change your mood, your hair and your life — a single quote can flip the way you see the world right round.

But then, a Breville sandwich toaster can change the way you look at bread; and if Mr Breville started appearing on the cover of *Vox* whining about how toasted sandwich-making students had misunderstood what he'd originally meant to do with the toaster, his worries about road-development in Stroud, and his intention to retreat from public life for 30 years in order to invent a portable waffle-iron, we would set fire to his shrubbery as some relief from the boredom.

Of course, being old enough to see history repeat itself means that what happens next is entirely predictable: As the current giants collapse under the weight of their own importance, a new wave of young bands will become snappish and eager to make things fun again. Pop stars who insist on wearing only multi-strapped trousers and shoes that look like two dead cats, and talk about the world as if they were arthritic old men with only one lung, will be brushed aside. The charts will become swamped with cover versions of Jonathan Richman's entire back catalogue done in the style of Arrow's *Hot Hot Hot*. Which is, obviously, a brilliant career move for Aqua.

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مكتبة النخيل



Taking drugs is neither big nor clever, says David Sinclair, and pop stars are stupid if they portray it as anything else



Two of rock's more conspicuous drug victims, Jimi Hendrix and Kurt Cobain, were both 27 when they died in equally squalid circumstances, Hendrix choking on his own vomit and Cobain blowing his head off with a shotgun

# The needle and the damage done

The news that Eric Clapton has become a drugs counsellor (as revealed in last Saturday's *Times Magazine*) is not exactly a case of the poacher turning gamekeeper. We can save that headline for when he joins the drugs squad. But it is certainly a good example of the boot finding its way, over a period of time, on to the other foot.

For Clapton was one of the first of the high-profile drug-abusing pop stars and, more to the point, one of the first to admit publicly to both heroin addiction and alcoholism. As Richard Morrison recently observed in these pages, "Pop music culture is inextricably linked to drug culture," and even though Clapton is now officially on the side of the angels, his new role certainly does nothing to dispel that impression.

Also doing his bit to strengthen the ties between pop and drug culture this week is Alan McGee, the famously teetotal chairman of

Oasis's record company, Creation Records. McGee is assembling an "all-star" cast to appear on an album he is compiling in support of the campaign to decriminalise

**6 The link between pop and drug culture is axiomatic**

cannabis launched by the *Editor of The Independent*, Rosie Boycott. Curiously, McGee, who was driven to the brink of physical and financial ruin by his addiction to drugs, has never much cared for cannabis. "It was never really my drug when I was using," he says. "I was always more into uppers."

As for the legions of young pop stars queuing up to get their faces in the pages of the music press, the link between pop and drug culture is axiomatic. Here's a typical quote from an interview in a recent edition of *New Musical Express*: "I've been dependent on every drug, really. I've been through them all. I know how I am on heroin. I know how I am on cocaine. I know how I am on E, how I am on acid and so on." The speaker is not some impossibly rich and raddled superstar, looking back from the safety of a reformed middle age. He is the 22-year-old singer of a little-known group with one album to their name, who are doubtless still massively in debt to their record company.

Egged on by the journalist ("Were you ever dependent on heroin?"), he brags of his drug experiences with casual bravado, before finally revealing that "I haven't done it for ages. I just have a smoke and a drink at the minute." The tone of his "confession" is strangely

like that of the locker-room bore who assails you with talk of his numerous sexual conquests. You sense that it would be something of a blow to this young hellraiser's reputation if the journalist were to suggest that any of this was slightly exaggerated. And even if it were all true, it seems not to have entered the heads of either singer or journalist that indulging in such self-destructive patterns of behaviour might be better avoided in the first place, let alone deplored.

On the face of it this sounds like the kind of loose talk that ultimately costs lives. If they hear enough of this stuff the impressionable young people at whom it is aimed will get the idea that drug abuse is clever and commonplace, and indeed that is demonstrably what happens in many cases. The late Kurt Cobain of Nirvana was both a victim and an example of the syndrome. "I've been accused of being a junkie for years," he said in 1992. "It didn't bother me at first, because I've always admired

Keith Richards and all these other rock stars who were associated with heroin... But we have a lot of young fans and I don't want to have anything to do with inciting drug use." Ever since the heroin-addicted Cobain blew his head off with a shotgun there have been at least half a dozen "copycat" suicides by disturbed Nirvana fans around the world.

But the connection between the message that is sent out and what is picked up may not always be as straightforward as it might seem. I vividly recall the deaths of first Brian Jones and then Jimi Hendrix, both of whom I idolised in my early teens. Both were renowned users of recreational drugs, some of which, such as LSD, were being promoted by the heroes of the counter-culture as the key to an "expanded consciousness" and a panacea, no less, for the ills besetting "straight society". The exact circumstances of both deaths remain in some doubt, but the shock of receiving

such a graphic illustration of the connection between a lifestyle embracing long-term drug abuse and the possibility of a sudden, early death has remained with me to this day.

A succession of talented individuals soon went the same way — Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, Al Wilson of Canned Heat, Paul Kossoff of Free — all of them dead before the age of 30, each a tragic confirmation of the fact that all recreational drugs should be treated with respect and many properly regarded with nothing short of fear. In more recent times, the story of Michael Hutchence's squalid demise, to name just one, could hardly speak more eloquently of the dangers of drug abuse to mental equilibrium than if it had been written as a morality play.

Pop stars do influence the behaviour of others, but often it is in unintentional or unpredictable ways. Seeing Richards close up or watching Shaun Ryder of Black Grape turn into a fat old man

virtually overnight may have a more salutary effect on some observers than any amount of anti-drug propaganda.

There is, too, a voyeuristic element in all this. When Noel

**6 Would the survivors take drugs if they had their time again? 9**

Gallagher says that for him taking drugs is no different from "having a cup of tea", he speaks as someone whose lifestyle is so far removed from that of most ordinary people that he might as well be living on another planet.

"Most men and women lead very deprived lives," the novelist John Updike observed. "In

a sense, the deprivation shelters us from ever exploring those limits of possibility which the very rich, the rock stars, the movie stars are used to leading." It seems that one of the functions of being a rock star these days — even a fledgling one — is to live a life of vainglorious excess on our behalf. For those of us who will forever remain "deprived" of fame and riches beyond belief, such icons are required to become our fantasies made flesh. To do this they must behave with rash indifference to the consequences of their actions and, if need be, pay the ultimate price, not so that we will emulate them, but so that we will know what happens when the "limits of possibility" are reached without actually having to go there ourselves.

Of course, they shouldn't do it, and one wonders if the lucky ones who have come out the other side, such as Clapton and McGee, would go down the same path if they had their time again. Surely no one would be that stupid?

**14 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS**

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**"THE MOST BREATHTAKING FILM OF THE DECADE"**

**TITANIC**

STILL SHOWING AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## Short on shelf life

CORNERSHOP may not yet dominate world markets, but their sound incorporates world musics. On their delightfully eclectic third album, *When I Was Born for the 7th Time*, the five-piece group cross continents and times, mixing ragas with dance beats, country tunes with Punjabi folk.

Sadly, though, the plea-

### LIVE GIG

sure and promises of their record struggled to generate the same excitement in concert at Cambridge's Junction. They seemed uninterested in the rituals of performance. Singer and guitarist Tjinder Singh said nothing, and seemed reluctant even to look at the audience.

The songs passed by pleasantly enough. The opening numbers — *Sleep on the Left Side* and their cover of the Beatles' *Norwegian Wood* — rambled along. But Singh's voice lacks the warmth and intimacy that he displays on record.

The concert livened up with a sitar-led *We're In Yr Corner* and *Butter the Soul*, with its sampling and scratching. But despite these intriguing cocktails of sounds, the band still evinced a strange indifference to their handiwork. Their big hit, *Brimful of Asha*, was casually dropped into the set, as if deliberately designed to defuse audience expectations.

Even the climax, an extended version of *Coming Up*, never quite lit off. There was no encore, no word of farewell. Just a nod of the head, a gentle wave, and CornerShop were gone.

JOHN STREET

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Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them

THE BENT (18): Aszewski's revision of Martin...

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Unlawful enforcers: Lorcan Cranitch and Paul Hickey are caught up in the one-sided moral code of a Belfast ghetto

Bigots are in town

The other day I was talking to a senior figure in the Irish theatre — let's just call him Mr O'Anon — who was deploring the current British passion for plays safely set in his nation's outback...

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'No win me' and 'spill'.



# Community law entry differs from national law right

**Boukssid v Secretary of State for the Home Department**  
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Waller (Judgment March 3)

The spouse of a British citizen who had been admitted to the United Kingdom under Community law was not entitled to be treated, for the purposes of an application for indefinite leave to remain, as if she had been admitted under the national law.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Fatima Boukssid from the determination of her application by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Mr Peter Duffy, QC, and Mr Tim Eadie for the applicant; Mr Richard Pender, QC, for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the applicant was a Moroccan national aged 27 who first arrived in the United Kingdom on November 21, 1992, with leave to remain for six months as a visitor.

She applied for a variation of the conditions attached to her leave. When that was refused she appealed to an adjudicator and remained pending determination of her appeal.

On November 13, 1993 she married Peter Stollery, a British citizen. Before the determination of the appeal she and her husband went to the Netherlands, where he was employed from about September 1994.

On December 23, 1994 she applied at the British Consulate General in Amsterdam for leave to settle in the United Kingdom, in the form applying for United Kingdom entry clearance she put a tick against the question "Are you applying as a non-EC dependent of a European Community national?"

She was issued with a family permit marked "Dependent of an EEA national" and was admitted without leave on January 31, 1995.

On June 19, 1995 her representatives applied on her behalf for "A residence document in accordance with Council Directive

(86/360/EEC) article 4.4." They added: "To coincide with Peter's status, we believe you must grant Fatima indefinite leave to remain."

On July 27, 1995 the secretary of state issued the applicant with a residence permit valid for five years. But the application for indefinite leave was refused on the basis that:

"In view of the fact that your husband has not remained in the United Kingdom in exercise of a Treaty right (as set out in the 1994 Order) for the last four years, the secretary of state is not satisfied that you fulfil the conditions of paragraph 255 of the Immigration Rules (HC 395)."

On July 31, 1995 the applicant lodged a notice of appeal against the decision. On March 20, 1996 the adjudicator held that he had no jurisdiction to entertain the appeal. He said that the application was made pursuant to Community law and article 18 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Order (SI 1994 No 1895) restricted appeals in the refusal of a residence permit or a residence document and to the withdrawal of a residence permit or residence document, whereas the applicant wanted a variation of her residence permit.

The applicant appealed to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal and by its determination of October 30, 1996 the appeal tribunal dismissed the appeal both in relation to her right of appeal and the refusal of indefinite leave to remain on the basis of paragraph 255 of HC 395.

Paragraph 255 provided: "An EEA national... and the family member of such a person, who has been issued with a residence permit or residence document valid for five years, and who has remained in the United Kingdom in accordance with the provisions of the 1994 EEA Order for four years and continues to do so may, on application, have his residence permit or residence document... endorsed to show permission to remain in the United Kingdom indefinitely."

That rule applied to the applicant as a result of the decision of the European Court of Justice in *The Queen v Immigration Appeal Tribunal and Surinder Singh, Ex parte Secretary of State for the*

*Home Department* (Case C-370/93) (*The Times* August 31, 1992) [1992] ECR I-4265, 4294, paragraph 23).

If, therefore, the applicant was applying under European law, as she was, the secretary of state was correct in seeing whether she satisfied the conditions laid down by that rule.

Mr Duffy's second submission was that paragraph 257 of HC 395 was applicable to the applicant.

That provided: "The requirements for indefinite leave to remain for the spouse of a person present and settled in the United Kingdom are that:

"(i) the applicant was admitted to the United Kingdom or given an extension of stay for a period of 12 months and has completed a period of 12 months as the spouse of a person present and settled here; and

"(ii) the applicant is still the spouse of the person he or she was admitted or granted an extension of stay to join and the marriage is subsisting; and

"(iii) each of the parties intends to live permanently with the other as his or her spouse."

Mr Duffy said that when the applicant entered the United Kingdom on her return from Holland she was admitted to the United Kingdom "within the meaning of that rule."

At the time, the secretary of state's decision was taken she satisfied the other conditions within that paragraph, namely, she had completed a period of 12 months as the spouse of Mr Stollery, who was present and settled here, the marriage was subsisting and the parties intended to live together as husband and wife.

It did not matter, said Mr Duffy, how the person was admitted, provided he or she came here lawfully.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was clear from the context and the whole scheme of the relevant rules that "admitted" meant admitted pursuant to law.

Moreover, the words "for a period of 12 months" in sub-paragraph (i) governed both of the previous alternatives, namely,

"admitted to the United Kingdom" and "given an extension of stay".

Paragraph 5 of HC 395 provided: "... these rules do not apply to a European Economic Area (EEA) national or the family member of such a national who is entitled to enter or remain in the United Kingdom by virtue of the provisions of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Order 1994."

His Lordship did not see how a person exercising Community rights under the *Surinder Singh* principle could be in any different position.

The rules relating to spouses of persons present and settled in the United Kingdom or being admitted on the same occasion or settlement were to be found in paragraphs 251 to 258 of HC 395.

Paragraphs 281 to 283 contained the requirements relating to those seeking leave to enter as such spouses. If they satisfied those requirements they were to be granted leave to enter for an initial period of 12 months.

Paragraphs 284 to 286 were concerned with those seeking an extension of leave, where they already had limited leave to enter. Provided they satisfied the conditions they might be granted an extension of leave for 12 months.

Paragraph 287 laid down the requirements that had to be satisfied before indefinite leave was granted and formed the final step consequent upon prior fulfilment of either the paragraph 281 route or the paragraph 284 route.

It was inherent in the operation of the rules that inquiries had to be made to see whether the applicant fulfilled the necessary conditions.

In the case of a person seeking leave to enter under paragraph 281 those inquiries would necessarily be made before the applicant entered. In the case of applicants under paragraph 284 or 287 they would be present here when leave was granted.

It was also a necessary precondition of each of those rules that the spouse of the applicant was both present and settled in the United Kingdom.

The applicant could have applied under paragraph 284 after her marriage and before she and her husband went to Holland. At that time she had limited leave to remain.

If their departure for Holland was imminent she might have had to ask for the postponement of the determination until Mr Stollery was again present in the United Kingdom. But the necessary inquiries to see whether the other conditions were fulfilled could have been undertaken in the meanwhile.

Likewise, had she done so in good time while in Holland, she could have applied under paragraph 281, though again the determination would have had to be delayed until Mr Stollery returned to the United Kingdom. But that would have allowed the further inquiries to be made.

When the applicant applied to the British Consulate in Holland there was not time to make those inquiries. That was why she exercised her Community law rights.

Mr Duffy's principal argument was that the application for paragraph 255 of HC 395 was in accordance with the provisions of the 1994 EEA Order and which involved continuation of employment by the husband and continuation of the marriage was more onerous than the requirement of paragraph 287 which involved only 12 months' residence coupled with the other conditions.

That, he submitted, constituted discrimination on the ground of nationality which was contrary to article 6 of the European Community Treaty and article 7(2) of Council Regulation 1612/68 (EC) (1968/1472) in that it treated those in a situation governed by Community law differently from United Kingdom nationals and their spouses in a way that provided an obstacle to their integration into United Kingdom society and thereby undermined the mobility of workers within the Community.

His Lordship could not accept Mr Duffy's submission which ran counter to the express language of the European Court in *Surinder Singh*.

The court in that case took care not to state that the spouse's conditions of entry and residence had to be at least equivalent to those granted by national law in the territory of the host state.

Nor did the court suggest that

# Restoring company for claimant

**In re Philip Powis Ltd**  
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Waller (Judgment February 18)

It was a legitimate purpose within the scope of section 65(1)(j) of the Companies Act 1985 for a person whose personal injury claim against a defendant company was pending on the date of the company's dissolution to apply under that sub-section for a declaration that the dissolution was void, in order to commence a second action, which would be, *prima facie*, statute-barred, in circumstances where it was arguable that an application under section 63 of the Limitation Act 1980 could succeed.

Where a further purpose for seeking the declaration was to enable the applicant to prove in the liquidation, the court should not dismiss the application on the ground that it granted, the company's insurers, not being creditors, would not have the opportunity to be heard in relation to the applicant's proof but would be bound by any decision as to the validity of the claim, since Order 15, rule 62(2)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court provided that the insurers could apply for an order to intervene in the insolvency proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when allowing the appeal of the applicant, Mr Robert Harrison, against dismissal by Sir John Knox on April 25, 1997 of his application for, *inter alia*, an order declaring the dissolution of the defendant company, Philip Powis Ltd, to have been void, and a direction under section 65(6) of the 1985 Act that the period between the date of dissolution and the date of restoration of the company be included in the limitation period in respect of the plaintiff's claim against the company.

The insurers of the company, Sun Alliance and London Assurance plc, who had instructed solicitors in relation to the applicant's claim, intervened in the proceedings. The liquidator of the company did not appear.

Mr Leon Kuschie for the applicant; Mr Philip Flower for Sun Alliance.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the purpose of the application and the justification for the order sought was first to enable the applicant to prove in the liquidation, or otherwise enforce his rights against the liquidator and contributors, and second, to institute fresh proceedings against the company for damages for his personal injuries.

Counsel for the insurers had submitted that as it matter of discretion the court should not grant the order sought for the purpose of enabling the applicant to prove in the liquidation or otherwise to enforce his rights for that would prejudice the insurers.

The prejudice relied on was, *inter alia*, that the decision of the liquidator in respect of the applicant's proof would bind the insurers without them having an opportunity to be heard in any right of appeal because the insurers would not be creditors of the company.

In his Lordship's view, that was not sufficient justification to refuse the order sought in so far as the applicant desired to prove his claim in liquidation or otherwise in enforce his rights against the liquidator or the members.

It was by no means clear that the admission of the applicant's proof

# Making money for kids' stuff

But, his Lordship said, the Sun had no intention of paying her £4,000, or, indeed, any sum, and it was fundamentally unrealistic to regard that sum as, on the facts, a reasonable fee for the Monks' infringing use of the plaintiffs' copyright.

In effect, the plaintiffs were asking that such damages be assessed on the user principle as expressed in *Stoke-on-Trent City Council v W.C. & C. Glass Ltd* (1968) 1 W.L.R. 1406, 1410-1, 1412-3, 1416 (A.I.R.) in relation to damages for patent infringement, in cases where the defendant could only justify what he did if he had the patent holder's permission.

But in his Lordship's view, the quantum of damages here should reflect the fact that the Monks were able to read the book before it was published and to discuss it with friends, in effect, no more than a minor copy, and the appropriate sum for each to pay was £25.

Disclosure order

The plaintiffs were in principle entitled to an order that each of the Monks swear an affidavit stating the names and addresses of all their suppliers.

Mrs Monk opposed that, on the ground that she had disclosed all the could. But so far she had not been obliged to swear any evidence and she might well know more about the provenance of her photocopy.

Mr Monk had admitted acquiring one full and a second, either full or part, photocopy in the course of his duties as deputy editor of *The Express* but relied on section 10 of the 1981 Act.

Since the innocent reputation of two prominent companies, the first plaintiff and Donatelli's, were involved and until the thief was identified, each would remain vulnerable to repetitions, it seemed to his Lordship, in light of *Camelot Group plc v Centaur Communications Ltd* (The Times October 20, 1997) [1998] 1 All ER 251 and *A Ltd* (1997) 40 I.P.R. 387, 393 (A.I.R.) (A.C.), that the interests of justice required that Mr Monk, too, should disclose his source.

Solicitors: Wedlake Bell; Swepstone Walsh.

# Fugitive remanded on bail for extradition deemed to be in custody

**Regina v Secretary of State of the Home Department, Ex parte Lauder**  
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Mance (Judgment February 20)

A remand on bail which could be granted in extradition proceedings upon commitment to await the Home Secretary's decision to return a fugitive constituted "being... kept in custody" for the purposes of speciality protection required by section 6(4) of the Extradition Act 1967.

However, that was of no benefit to the applicant since an undertaking that complied with the require-

ment for speciality protection had been made before the applicant came before the court.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in reserved judgments dismissing an application by Eswan Quayle Lauder for habeas corpus and judicial review of the order by the Home Secretary providing for speciality protection was not in force.

However, on December 12, 1997 the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region gave an undertaking to the United Kingdom that the applicant would not be re-surrendered to mainland China. On December 11, 1997 the applicant was admitted to bail.

Section 6 of the 1969 Act, as amended by the Hong Kong (Extradition) Order (SI 1997 No 1178), provides:

"(4) A person shall not be returned, or committed to custody or kept in custody for the purposes of such return, unless provision is made by relevant law, or by an arrangement made with the relevant foreign state, commonwealth country or colony, or with the Hong Kong Administrative Region, for securing that he will not be dealt with there for or in respect of any offence committed before his return that is, the offence of which his return is ordered."

It was, in his Lordship's view, illogical to put those on bail and therefore less likely to abscond, in a worse position than those having to be kept in custody in case they absconded, and that section 6 protection would be available to the latter throughout the whole course of the extradition proceedings but to the former only at the point of return.

His Lordship also recognised, that in the context of habeas corpus proceedings generally, an application on bail was treated as if in custody.

Had the applicant come to the court at a time between July 1, 1997 when the previous speciality provisions ceased on the handover of Hong Kong, and December 12,

1997 when the fresh speciality undertaking was given, he would have been entitled to immediate and absolute discharge of the extradition proceedings.

His Lordship said the other submit that the effectiveness or otherwise of the undertaking given by the Chief Executive.

It was submitted by Mr Nicholls that the undertaking could not properly be regarded as an arrangement with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the applicant's protection as, in the event of his absconding, the Chief Executive retained the authority of the Central People's Government to make such an arrangement.

In his Lordship's judgment, the Chief Executive did have power to grant the applicant the protection required. Even if, exceptionally, grounds existed for disputing that power, the common law applied in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Any action sought to be taken contrary to the undertaking would amount to the clearest possible abuse of power or abuse of process and would not successfully withstand legal challenge.

Mr Justice Mance delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Timmus Salmer Dechert; Crown Prosecution Service; Ludgate Circus; Treasury Solicitor.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

# Journalist ordered to disclose his source

**Michael O'Mara Books Ltd and Others v Express Newspapers plc and Others**  
Before Mr Justice Neuberger (Judgment March 3)

Even at the preliminary stage of an application for summary judgment against two of four defendants to an action for infringement of copyright in a book, the interests of justice could require that the deputy editor of a national newspaper disclose, on oath, the source of a copy of it in his possession.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the *Chancery Division* on the hearing of an application by the plaintiffs, Michael O'Mara Books Ltd, Allan Starke and Christopher Wilson, for summary judgment against the third and fourth defendants, in an action for infringement of copyright in *Fergie - Her Secret Life* against Express Newspapers plc, Richard Addis, Ian Monk and Anita Monk.

Section 23 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 provides:

"The copyright in a work is infringed by a person who, without the licence of the copyright owner... (b) sells... or offers... for sale... an article which is, and which he knows or has reason to believe, is an infringing copy..."

Section 47 provides: "(2) The court may in an action for infringement of copyright having regard to all the circumstances, and in particular to - (a) the flagrancy of the infringement, and (b) any benefit accruing to the defendant by reason of the infringement, award such additional damages as the justice of the case shall require."

Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 provides: "No court may require a person to disclose, nor is any person guilty of contempt of court for refusing to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication for which he is responsible, unless it is established... that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime."

Mr Richard Arnold for the plaintiffs; Mr Richard Parkes for Mr and Mrs Monk.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that Mr Monk admitted acquiring two photocopies of a typescript of the book in question in the course of his duties as deputy editor of the *The Express* and had had reason to believe they were infringing copies.

Mrs Monk admitted she had orally agreed to sell one of them to the Sun for £4,000 and had offered it to a person whose she

thought a representative of the *News of the World*.

There was fairly strong support for belief that both copies had been sent by facsimile from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where the United States edition of the book had been printed for O'Mara by Donatelli's.

The Monks retained assessment of additional damages at this stage, as they might wish to put in evidence in mitigation and of means. Mr Arnold contended, citing *Williams v Selfe* (1960) 1 W.L.R. 1072, 212 (Musselwhite v Chris King [1995] FSR 56) and *Calu Homes (South) Ltd v Alfred McAlpine Homes East Ltd* (1995) FSR 818, that both mitigation and means were irrelevant.

Mr Richard Arnold said it would be unfair to rule on additional damages without first giving the Monks the opportunity to put in evidence on both further, it might be inappropriate to consider their liability separately from the liability for such damages of the first and second defendants.

Compensatory damages

The plaintiffs contended for £8,000 as a starting point for compensatory damages, since the Monks had two infringing copies and Mrs Monk had been prepared to sell one for £4,000.

Computer reliable despite printout flaw

**Reid v Director of Public Prosecutions**  
Minor typographical errors in a printout produced by a printer attached to a Lon Intoximeter did not affect the reliability of the results of the analysis of a breath specimen produced by the machine when it had been correctly calibrated and was functioning properly. Therefore, the analysis was admissible in evidence under section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Maurice Kay) so held

on February 18 when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated against the dismissal by Kingston Crown Court (Judge Haworth and Justice) on June 30, 1997, of an appeal by Steena Reid against her conviction by Richmond Justices of driving a motor vehicle with excess alcohol in her breath.

The printing errors involved the omission of the second half of the first character and the second character in every line said in one version the top line was printed in smaller type than the rest of the printout.

MR JUSTICE MAURICE KAY said that the decision of the House of Lords in *DPP v McKewin* (The Times February 20, 1997) [1997] 1 W.L.R. 285 made it far more difficult for wanton and unattractive claims of this kind to succeed.

It seemed clear beyond doubt that the computer part was working and operating properly and that it was calibrated and correct.

The printer malfunction did not affect the way in which the Intoximeter processed, stored or retrieved information used to generate the statement tendered in evidence.

Solicitors: Wedlake Bell; Swepstone Walsh.

But, his Lordship said, the Sun had no intention of paying her £4,000, or, indeed, any sum, and it was fundamentally unrealistic to regard that sum as, on the facts, a reasonable fee for the Monks' infringing use of the plaintiffs' copyright.

In effect, the plaintiffs were asking that such damages be assessed on the user principle as expressed in *Stoke-on-Trent City Council v W.C. & C. Glass Ltd* (1968) 1 W.L.R. 1406, 1410-1, 1412-3, 1416 (A.I.R.) in relation to damages for patent infringement, in cases where the defendant could only justify what he did if he had the patent holder's permission.

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Disclosure order

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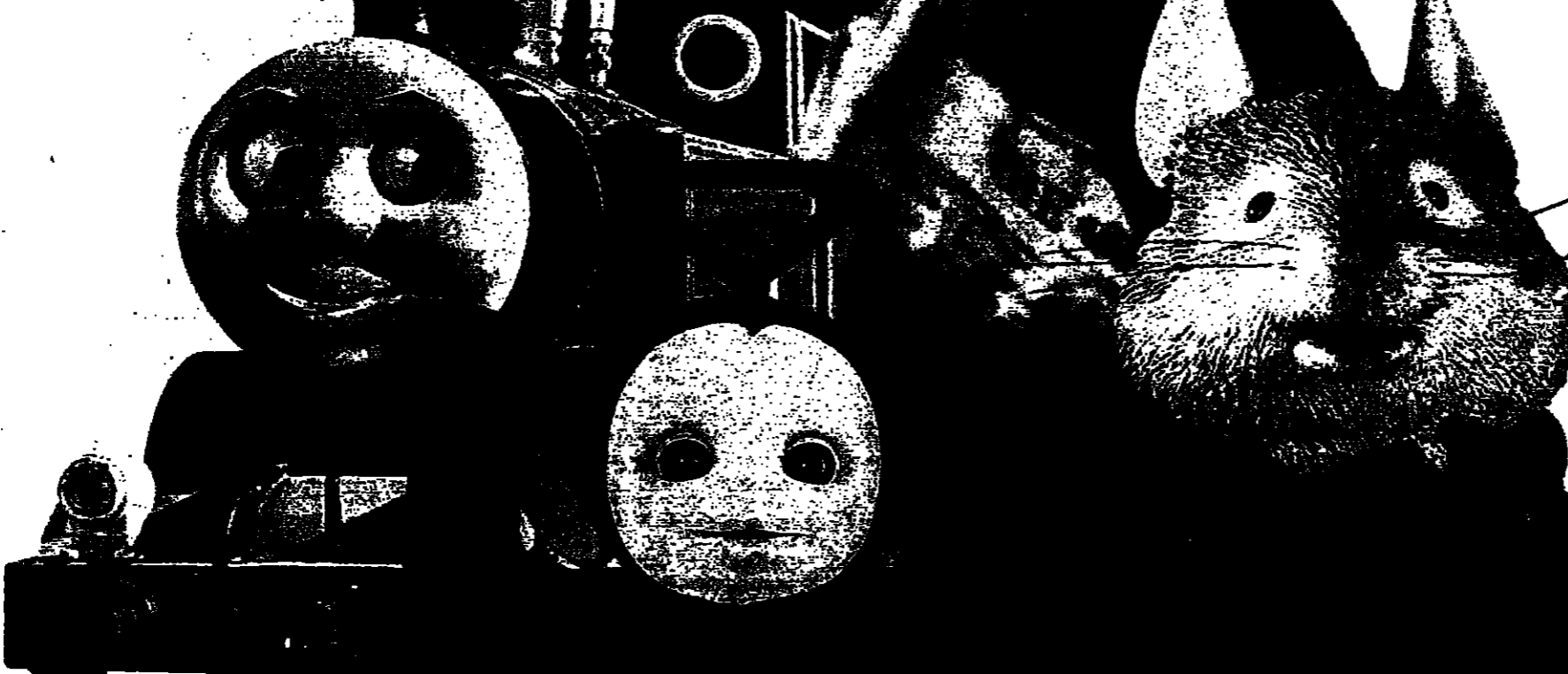
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Solicitors: Wedlake Bell; Swepstone Walsh.

# Making serious money is kids' stuff



Totting up the lolly: spin-off merchandising from such shows as *Thomas the Tank Engine*, *Teletubbies*, *Brambly Hedge* and *The Wombles* earns millions of pounds

What do *Thomas the Tank Engine*, *Captain Pugwash*, *Brambly Hedge* and *Teletubbies* have in common, apart from being successful British children's television programmes? The answer is growing revenue from all around the world.

The characters are becoming brands, some of them even global brands. And according to Roger Llewellyn, the chairman of Britt Allcroft, the international children's production, distribution and licensing group, Thomas, the gentle work of the late Rev W. Awdry, comes after Mickey Mouse and Barbie in the pantheon of recognised children's characters.

The sums involved, particularly in spin-off merchandising, are considerable. Britt Allcroft is in advanced negotiations, together with children's publisher Egmont, to buy the master rights to Thomas and friends for £26.5 million from Reed International.

Thomas is making "satisfactory progress" in Korea, Germany and Scandinavia, but children in Japan love him to bits. The little engine is

## Children's television characters have the power to raise millions in merchandising, says Raymond Snoddy

about to be given his own section in a popular theme park on the lower slopes of Mount Fuji.

"Apart from sport, children's programming is probably the only global game," says Mr Llewellyn, who would like to see some of his other small friends, such as James the cat, start whizzing around the world, too. He also has high hopes of getting his hands on the rights to Sooty before long.

For a company such as Britt Allcroft, the television programmes are almost the loss leaders of the trade — 95 per cent of the company's revenues come from merchandising, although the growth of new satellite channels devoted entirely to children's programming is increasing the value of the TV shows. The owner of rights to a children's television character typically receives between 8 and 10 per cent of the wholesale price of toys or other items. For the BBC, for example, the non-US merchandising rights

to the smash hit *Teletubbies* could easily mean a £5 million windfall.

In the US advertising revenue from children's programming stands at more than \$900 million (£563 million) a year. But the market for merchandising overall is \$17.5 billion.

This is a target that excites other children's programme makers such as Peter Orton, the managing director of Hit Entertainment, who has raised significant sums to invest in making original British programming aimed at world markets. Nine half-hours of the animated Beatrix Potter tales, for instance, cost \$1.5 million an episode — as expensive as the most glossy television drama for adults. Even more modest programmes for Saturday morning shows can easily cost \$300,000 to \$350,000 for a half hour.

*Brambly Hedge* has already

been sold to 80 countries and *Kipper the Dog*, already set to be a big hit on ITV, has been snapped up by Nickelodeon, the American cable and satellite children's channel that is seen worldwide.

"Nickelodeon will make Kipper a huge property in America," says Peter Orton, who has been in the children's TV business for 30 years and who used to look after the affairs of the Muppets' Kermit the frog when he ran Jim Henson's worldwide business. He believes the strength of British children's programmes internationally has grown out of the creativity of children's book publishing and illustrating in the UK.

BBC Worldwide, the corporation's commercial arm, is determined to establish its children's programmes "as a key global genre in its new branding strategy". There are even plans to create an international BBC satellite channel, probably with partners, devoted

to such shows. The BBC still devotes £40 million a year to children's TV, and has a continuing commitment to original drama.

"What is really encouraging is that on days we have all original programmes we get really high viewing figures," says Lorraine Heggessey, the new head of BBC children's programmes. She acknowledges that the competition — six dedicated children's satellite channels, apart from ITV — will inevitably eat into her audience share. *Grange Hill* still makes it into the children's top ten as does *Blue Peter*, which will be 40 in October.

"What is encouraging is how committed the BBC is to providing high-quality children's programmes, and the budget enables us to do so," says Ms Heggessey. She is determined that her daughters — Anneliese, 5, and Lenneke, 8 — should have something other than cartoons to watch.

The money angle of children's television will be one of the issues debated at the Second World Summit on Television For Children in London next week.

## It's our job to tell the truth about the Corp

TRYING to write about the affairs of one's own newspaper or, even worse, the other business interests of the proprietor, is never easy — and may actually be impossible. And the running row over Rupert Murdoch, Chris Patten and HarperCollins shows one can easily be caught in an uncomfortable crossfire.

No national newspaper in the UK covers its own affairs really well, and owners of even the quite recent past have used their papers to promote their own interests and attack those of their rivals. Beaverbrook decided what went into the *Daily Express* and Robert Maxwell thought pictures of himself with the Bulgarian Foreign Minister were made for the pages of the *Daily Mirror*, until even he realised they might not be boosting circulation.

At the broadsheet end of the market, Tiny Rowland's feud with Mohamed Al Fayed over



Raymond Snoddy

Harrods and the House of Fraser split over into the business pages of *The Observer*, when Rowland owned it, much too often for the comfort of many of its journalists. There was even a special midweek edition of the paper when Rowland got his hands on the Department of Trade and Industry's report into the affair.

But leaving aside the Baroque behaviour of some of the more colourful newspaper tycoons, there is hardly an established tradition of newspapers reporting honestly in their own columns on their own more mundane affairs. Circulation increases are trumpeted on the front page, reverses ignored.

The *Financial Times* perhaps comes closest to the ideal. Its owners, Pearsons, are hands-off, albeit largely because the company judges it good business to be seen to be independent. This stance meant that Richard Lambert, the FT's Editor, could write an editorial before the 1992 election advocating a vote for Labour, and his chairman, the Tory peer Lord Blakenham, found out about it only when the paper arrived at his door the next morning. The FT's Lex column does not, however, comment on Pearson's financial performance.

In recent years *Guardian* readers were very ill-informed about the company's ultimately successful attempt to buy *The*

*Observer* and even today *The Guardian* would not be the best place to find out how much money *The Observer* is losing.

And Andreas Whitam Smith, the founder of *The Independent*, felt little need to keep his readers informed in 1990 about his attempt to get his hands on the rival *Sunday Correspondent*. Why, even *The Times* has been known, occasionally, to appear to avert its gaze when some activity of Mr Murdoch is being criticised by ill-informed souls.

You can argue that none of this matters. The industry is so competitive that every scrap of information is sieved by rivals and blown up out of all proportion. The public is rarely deprived of information, and journalists who cannot get stories into their own papers have been known to ring *Private Eye*.

But it is not enough for the flow of information to happen almost by accident, for two reasons. Even more newspapers are now part of multimedia empires, whose interests may also range from television and radio to magazines and films. There is, and should be, particular sensitivity over who controls what information and images and for what purpose. As institutions at the heart of the cultural change, they have an added responsibility to be honest.

The second reason is more practical, and self-serving. As readers become more sophisticated, with access to growing sources of electronic information, it will become a matter of credibility for newspapers to report more honestly on their own affairs.

Already some improvements have been made. More newspapers are at least telling readers in the text of stories whether the company has a business interest in a news item. This basic courtesy allows readers to put information into context.

All that is needed is that simple facts are honestly told. Rivals can get on with pages of self-serving coverage devoted to stories that could have been covered in 500 words.

Perfection is not attainable, but media correspondents will have to push a little harder and just that bit more determined to ensure that they are not merely "other people's media" correspondents.

## Catching consumers on a candid camera

Observational research, the professional terminology for simply watching and filming what consumers do, is nothing new. Stores have been filming us for years and using the information as a basis for a whole retail science.

But the advertising agency BMP DDB, one of the UK's five largest and part of a worldwide network, is now planning to take the technique one stage further.

It is in the first stages of setting up a unit, under the name of Culture Lab, which will be dedicated to observing the behaviour of 12 households. It will build a video library of every aspect of their lives by filming them as they eat their morning cereal, chat on the phone, take a trip to the hairdresser or have a good old-fashioned family row.

Most of the footage will be collected by a researcher, who will stay in the spare room and carry a camera with her at all times, except at moments when she is asked to leave the room, when she might still leave the camera running in her absence.

The theory is that there is no point in filming people unless they are comfortable, relaxed and behaving normally. So a line will be drawn at taking a camera into the bedroom at night and, if a fixed camera finds its way into the bathroom, its lens will be trained on the sink. In return for this sort of access, the households — chosen randomly by professional recruiters — will be paid a basic fee.

To oversee the Culture Lab, the agency has drafted in one of the few experts in this sort of research who has extensive

### Admen will put families in fine focus, says Pippa Considine

experience of working in a commercial, rather than an academic, environment. Siamack Salari has moved after three years at the rival agency J Walter Thompson, where he concentrated on observational research in shops.

"In the supermarket what we see is just the tip of the iceberg," says Salari. "Now, we're getting into ground-breaking territory, because you will be able to see the whole purchase cycle — from the trigger to the purchase."

Rather than recording what people say, or think they do, this "naturalistic" approach can show what they are actually up to. Salari cites an example from a previous one-off project where a couple claimed that they split the washing-up and dog-walking. After a week of filming it was clear that she walked the dog every day and did all the cleaning at home.

The BMP DDB plan is to find 12 families who will allow a researcher to live in their home and film their every domestic move for two weeks. Each family will be revisited once a year, giving a total of something like 42 hours of useful footage with each visit. This will be recorded digitally, using a discreet little camera and then downloaded for analysis.

The choice of household will be partly based on the sort of

clients who sign up to the research, which is to be funded by a syndicate of four or five, as yet unnamed, companies. The information could be useful to a variety of organisations.

Salari describes a typical day in the life of a family. "They will make a car journey, they might go shopping, they'll cook, throw things in the bin, make some phone calls, put some music on. Already a car manufacturer would be interested for the travel — and also a hi-fi manufacturer and a telephone company."

Salari thinks that finding the subjects to film will be relatively easy, even though they will not be paid a great deal; he is more concerned about getting the right researchers.

"The skill is to be able to blend into the background and become anonymous, but still ask questions where appropriate. A typical situation might be where the researcher wakes up in the morning and feels something is wrong. Then the kids don't want the crisps they always get and the ratchet tightens and tightens through the day until at 5pm, there is a row. The researcher can then explore what happened."

"By living with these families we'll be able to get an understanding of, absolutely everything that happens in their lives," says Salari.

"This will not only have applications for communications strategy, product development, creative planning, media planning, to name but a few areas, but it will always be there, like a conveyor belt of information."

## Bad timing for Nettles drama

ITV launched its first major series of *Midsomer Murders* — a glorious whodunnit — this week. John Nettles, as Inspector Barnaby, plays an avuncular, more cheerful successor to Inspector Morse. But the way these films are being fitted into the schedule speaks volumes about the unresolved tensions dogging the network. The pilot, and its repeat last year attracted huge audiences — 14 million and 12 million — an instant hit. So the first two-hour

programmes are being screened on Sundays this month, the second two on Wednesdays, to cater for the traditional rivalry and split between the week-ends (run by LWT) and weekdays (Carlton, Meridian etc). It's daft, and will confuse the audience.

This split also reared its head at the governing ITV Council meeting this week, which apparently failed to agree a big increase in programme budgets sought by David Liddiment, its new director of programmes, specifically to bolster the week-ends with more drama. "The budget is the key issue for ITV," says an insider. The big boys, Carlton and Granada, are obsessed, instead, with getting the risky and costly British Digital Broadcasting off the ground.



Several schedules, one with news in the early evening, another with news headlines on the hour, are being evaluated. It's a very run way to treat a great brand.

IT'S been a testing time for those who aspire to start the day with a dose of facts from *The Pink One*. The *Financial Times* relaunched on Monday as more user-friendly, but mysteriously made its trademark City comment Lex Column 35 per cent longer. Yet Lex's strength lies in being brainy, deep and short. Hugo Dixon, its editor, says the individual comments are no longer, but more space gives scope to cover subjects dear to City hearts. Isn't it curious that even seriously busy people are assumed to want more to read in the morning, never less?

THE V-chip is back. Next week's world summit on Children's Television in London will debate its role in protecting children. Edward J. Markey, of the American House of Representatives and advocate of the set-top censorship chip and children's TV airtime quotas, addresses the conference. The European Parliament backed a filtering device, though it was opposed as impractical by the European Commission. But the EU is about to order a study of how best to control harmful content.



Avuncular: Nettles

The *Financial Times* no longer has a Media section. Odd, when everyone else is expanding theirs, including the *London Evening Standard*, which is adding a new Monday business media section to its existing Wednesday pages, and even *The*

*Mirror* is now recruiting a top new media correspondent.

The *Financial Times* has never got its format right — partly because its expert media journalists were never deeply involved in running the space.

NOTICE how *News at Ten* is being showed to one side by football? And how characterless ITV seems without it? No wonder ITV can't decide whether and where to move

VIEWERS will find *Midsomer Murders* just like a classy BBC production — from casting to design and location. When you study the credits you understand why: it is made almost exclusively by the cream of the former BBC drama department, some of them exiled, or forced out by early retirement in the 1990s purges. The central figure is the sprightly, legendary BBC pensioner Betty Willingale, powerhouse behind some of its greatest hits: *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*,

*Testament of Youth*, *Claudius*, *Mansfield Park*, *Black House*, and *Fortunes of War* (she brought Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson together).

Willingale, who joined the BBC as a 16-year-old office girl, spotted the potential in Caroline Graham's Inspector Barnaby books, and took them to Bently Films, an independent producer, who asked her to co-produce *Midsomer Murders* and form the high-quality team. A classic example of grey power.



TO lunch with Elow Eshun, the editor of the men's magazine *Arena*, hot-foot from a last-minute change to his April cover. Mike Tyson with a strapline of why we should learn to love him. Have Eshun's regular appearances with *Green Lane Review* heightened his respect for pugilists?



From Mamm, aimed at women suffering from cancer, to Interracial, for interracial couples, there is a huge choice of micro-niche magazines

# They've got you covered

Are you a white man dating a black woman? Have you had a breast surgically removed? Is your brother HIV-positive? Is your daughter blind? Are you going through a nasty divorce?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, fear not, there is in North America a glossy magazine that specialises in your very particular situation or predicament.

A new genre of reading material, the "micro-niche magazine", is sweeping America, with publications tailored to lifestyles, problems, illnesses and philosophies that were once ignored, or treated superficially by the mainstream press.

Upbeat, handsomely produced and perceptive, these magazines now hit the parts of society other magazines do not, or cannot, reach.

Divorce magazine, a quarterly, was started recently by a Canadian whose marriage had just collapsed. It aims to help people to deal with the tangible issues they suffer through divorce. This means offering advice on how to cope with loss of income, the family house, the car and the children.

The "intelligibles" are not neglected, and Dan Couvrette, the founder and publisher, offers tips on how to handle

However unusual your situation, America will have a magazine just for you, says Tunku Varadarajan

anger, depression, a sense of inadequacy and guilt. Speaking from his Toronto office, he says: "This magazine is for people who are contemplating a divorce, or who are already in the process, or who are still dealing with the negative after-effects."

Each issue sells 83,000 copies, priced at \$3.95 (£1.70), and Divorce is on the brink of making more than \$800,000 last year, from lawyers, mediators and match-making agencies all keen to reach a precisely defined target audience. More than a million divorces were granted in the United States last year.

The latest issue of Divorce has a step-by-step guide to the basics of divorce and tries to "demystify no-fault, contested, adversarial, or mediated divorce". There are sections dealing with readers' questions, such as: "My wife and I are separated, and she yells at me in front of the children. What should I do?" or "I've been divorced for a year (after a ten-year marriage) and I'm still angry. My friends say this is unhealthy. Are they right?" Mr Couvrette says Divorce

is "not a bunch of war stories about how awful divorce is". It is, instead, designed to "guide people through a rocky phase in their lives". He insists the magazine does not deal with the "ethics of marriage and separation, or whether divorce is right or wrong, but with the more pressing, practical matters of survival and recovery".

Survival and recovery are also at the heart of another beguiling new "micro-niche" magazine called Mamm, produced in New York for women with breast or ovarian cancer. Megan Strub Whiting, the publisher, says: "Mamm was started as a form of empowerment for women with breast and reproductive cancer. It's like a support group in print, and gives women with cancer the ability to make informed decisions about their health, relationships and families."

Mamm is a lively publication, dealing with such issues as "sex and the single breast". Megan Strub Whiting says: "We handle a lot of issues that doctors are unable to deal with — issues that aren't strictly medical. For instance, how will your sex life be after a mastectomy? How will your

husband react to the effects of chemotherapy on your body?" Much of the bimonthly magazine — with a circulation of 70,000 per issue — is devoted to women recounting their own experiences, which "builds a sense of solidarity, and breaks down the fear and isolation and helplessness that many women feel after they've had a breast removed".

The magazine has its playful side, too: its last issue had a brief interview with a pornographer in which he was asked whether his magazine would feature topless, one-breasted women. (It wouldn't.)

Mamm is modelled on Poz, a magazine that caters to people who are HIV-positive or who have Aids. Founded in 1994 by Ms Strub Whiting's brother, it has sought to change the way that "dread disease" is presented. The aim of its publisher is to "reach out to those with the condition, and tell them that life goes on, often for a very long time, and that there are many ways of coping". At \$3.95 an issue, it sells 91,000 copies a month, and even has

a Spanish-language version. The magazine is crammed with advertisements from pharmaceutical companies touting a variety of medications. The publishers are aware of a possible conflict of interest, and always emphasise that the editorial content is unrelated to the advertising. Nonetheless, the advertisements help Poz to break even.

There are few ads, however, in Interracial, a quarterly magazine for and about interracial couples and families. Instead, each issue offers articles on interracial dating and marriage, transracial adoption and multiracial children. The tone is upbeat, as is that of Mainstream, one of a growing number of magazines published for the disabled. Features in its latest issue include an article on a murderer who is in prison, paralysed. There is a campaign for his release on compassionate grounds, but the magazine says that "regardless of his disabilities... he should be given no pity or special attention".

Particularly eye-catching is Mainstream's latest campaign, which captures the zesty nature of many of the "micro-niche" magazines: why on earth can't there be braille labels on wine bottles? Don't the blind drink, too?

# Newspapers are not yet a dying breed

Agreed. Newspapers are old-fashioned and their declining sales show they are dying. Their role in the third millennium will be taken over by Internet newspapers and the Daily Me, delivered to our pocket computers.

One of the gurus was Alvin Toffler, who predicted the end of newspapers 20 years ago. As they tried to forecast the future, and to position newspapers to react, many believed him. "I have no doubt that before the end of this decade the digital revolution will launch an all-out assault on the last bastions of the Industrial Age — printing presses and delivery trucks," said Roger Fidler, head of Knight Ridder's Information Design Laboratory in the United States.

Now for the good news: a guru of futurology who believes that newspapers do have a future and that Toffler was talking tommy rot. He is Stokes Jones, who specialises in rebranding as a consultant at The Henley Centre, one of Britain's most respected consumer consultancies.

Toffler was too dramatic, says Dr Jones. Newspapers will survive because they have met the new media and have shaken hands with them. He explains the reasons for his optimistic forecast in an essay on "The future of the newspaper".

The doom-mongers are too fixated on sales, Dr Jones argues. The steady decline in total circulation masks the growth of readership within some sectors of the newspaper market, and in particular, the degree to which newspapers are embedded in people's daily lives. Admittedly the numbers of habitual daily newspaper readers are declining as other media demand their share of time but the decline is from a position of such strength and cultural hegemony that it is far too early to ring the alarm bells. (Up to 15 million newspapers are still sold every day in Britain.)

Newspapers, according to Jones, still play many of the roles that made them the first true mass medium in the first six decades of the 20th century, when they became the dominant shapers of public debate. They set the news agenda through the skill of editors in selecting and grooming the news stories that would most interest the public. They still shape debate but also come with "discursive space" to rehearse various interpretations of the news and to tell readers what they should think.

At a narrower social level they also play an important role as a "social facilitator" in providing a common backdrop that readers can use to connect with each other. More than half the readers surveyed by the Henley Centre say they often talk about what they read in the newspaper with somebody else during the day. One in three say they would feel lost without their daily newspaper. Newspapers, whether they are The Sun or the FT, still reflect the mindsets and pay homage to the interests of certain affinity groups.

New owners have transformed the regional press and reversed the trend of declining sales, especially by concentrating on local news. Jones cites the example of the *Grimston Evening Telegraph*, where the Editor, Peter Moore, at one time printed school meal menus. His paper gets into eight out of ten homes in its area.

Jones quarrels with several other assumptions made by futurologists. One was that the Internet was an enemy of the newspaper. Yet by embracing the Internet, traditional newspapers have extended their reach and won hundreds of thousands of new readers.

Nor is the *Daily Me*, the personalised newspaper delivered to the reader's screen, quite what it was cracked up to be. "Already the vision behind it seems part of an outdated Eighties dream of ever-extending customisation and choice. The *Daily Me* concept, in practice, is not really a newspaper at all but a piecemeal collection of articles without any coherent editorial focus."

What is really happening, says Jones, is that the newspaper is becoming the viewspaper. Just as customers trust the Marks & Spencer brand to select what they want from thousands of lines, so readers trust the editors of their newspaper brand, be it *Times*, *Guardian*, *Mail* or *Sun*, to select the news, opinion, analysis and comment that suits them.

By adapting their content and extending their range of interests, newspapers have so far withstood and embraced every competitor for readers' time thrown at them this century — whether radio, television, video recorders or now the Internet. In the era of information overload, newspapers remain a very durable medium — and unlike the Internet, they are light, portable, cheap and easy to use.



Brian MacArthur

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Too clever

كلمة للتفكير

As our digital age looms, Susan Karlin describes US multi-channel competition, and Alan Tillier reports on France's digital wars

# How Frasier has helped to save his channel

### Image campaigns and the targeting of specific audiences have been vital to America's networks

When British television goes digital this year, viewers won't be the only ones overwhelmed with channels. The terrestrial channels will have their hands full trying to stand out from the competition.

American networks have faced this for years, fighting for viewers with sophisticated promotional campaigns that assign personalities to their channels and keep audiences glued to their sets between programmes. In anticipation, British channels are beginning to do the same.

In the 20 years since the arrival of more than 200 cable, satellite and additional broadcast channels in America, the original three networks - ABC, NBC and CBS - have watched their prime-time audience share drop from 91 per cent to 49 per cent.

Auch of that was caused by more focused programming choices. First, cable created networks with very specific programming objectives and brand identities, such as MTV and CNN. Then the newcomer Fox began aggressively targeting specific audiences such as teens and young adults with edgy shows like *Married... With Children* and *The Simpsons*.

The big three networks realise branding was vital for their survival, says Vince Mazze, the senior vice-president of advertising and promotion at NBC. "Branding helps you to identify programming, lure advertisers and help viewers locate your network."

Today, the original networks not only target more specific audiences, but wage expensive image campaigns that promote corporate identities. NBC mainly targets upscale young adults, ages 18-49; ABC, a mixture of upscale and blue-collar adults aged 18-49; and CBS, older, mainstream audiences, aged 25-54.

"The more well-defined a programme service, the easier it is to brand, and the faster the viewer can get to know you," says George Schweitzer, the CBS marketing executive vice-president.

To begin this strategy here, he says, "British networks will have to create a personality for their service that they can easily communicate to viewers."

Ken Solomon, the president of Universal Television, recalls the shift in audience attitude years ago: "Viewers would pick particular programmes on the old networks, saying 'I watch *Cheers*'. But then they'd say 'I watch Fox or MTV. That was the first cue that viewing patterns were changing dramatically."

NBC, the top-rated network, took that idea and fine-tuned it, by starting to brand evenings of smart, hip comedies, such as *Seinfeld*, *Cheers* and *Frasier*, under the "Must See TV" banner. "The press picked it up and it became a mantra for the network," says Mazze.

Five years ago, Mazze and his boss, John Miller, developed strategies to stop viewers changing channels. They ran promotional spots featuring NBC stars and got them to appear in character in other NBC shows, to create the impression of an NBC universe. But the pair's crowning achievement was their concept of "seamless programming".

The screen at the end of a show is split to roll the credits and simultaneously show funny programme promos to discourage viewers from flicking during the credits. Other networks quickly followed suit.

Meanwhile, CBS tried to revamp its image to target younger audiences. The plan backfired, and the network found itself alienating its loyal viewers. So in the following 1996-97 season, CBS heralded a return to its original core audience with its "CBS, Welcome Home" campaign. It has since risen to second place in prime time.

"We want CBS to be seen as a warm, friendly place that welcomes everyone," says Schweitzer.

ABC, which fell to third place last season, was the last network to jump on the branding bandwagon, with a \$40 million campaign, "TV Is Good", last summer. Its humorously self-deprecating approach positions ABC as the champion of a much maligned medium. Its slogans use clichés about how detrimental television is for viewers, such as "It's a beautiful day, what are you doing outside?" and "Don't worry, you've got billions of brain cells."

"We're trying to say that ABC is fun and entertaining, rather than 'We are hip' or 'We are old'," says ABC's advertisers.

Unlike NBC and CBS, ABC is creating a general feeling rather than a specific personality.

But NBC argues that the network's programming must match its image. "The difficulty is that broadcast networks have news, comedy, drama and sports, which are hard to put under one brand. You can't just make up a phrase, and apply it to everything," says Mazze.

Most channels now also run a clear logo in the bottom right corner for quick identification during flicking.



NBC plugged hit shows such as *Frasier* under the banner of "Must See TV"

# French fight for eager subscribers

### Business may be booming, but profits are a long way off

As the UK moves towards the launch of 150 channels of digital television later this year, digital satellite wars are already well under way in France, where two large broadcasters are locked in a bitter battle.

Already more than 1.2 million French households are watching digital multichannel television and the number is expected to soar. The market leader is CanalSatellite, set up by Canal Plus, the hugely successful pay-TV service, which has 4.3 million subscribers to its conventional over-the-air broadcasting service in France and a ten million more across Europe through cable and satellite.

CanalSatellite, with 800,000 subscribers, is being challenged with unexpected vigour by Television par Satellite (TPS), owned by heavyweights media and industrial groups. Competition has encouraged new subscriptions far beyond our expectations. Growth has been exponential," says Bruno Delecour, president of CanalSatellite. Business has been so good that he now offers 30 French and 20 foreign channels. In addition, there are 40 music stations and 11 pay-per-view film and sports channels.

Competition between the two broadcasters has stimulated a wide array of new channels, offering everything from virtual tours of art shows and tele-shopping to stage plays and downloading of video games.

With its digital projects, France has at last, analysts say, avoided the trap of just offering either "more of the same" or "wall-to-wall football". There will, of course, be no shortage of football on French television - digital as well as terrestrial - this summer when France stages the World Cup finals. Virtually all 64 games are expected to be shown somewhere. But even though the digital market is growing, profits are still a long way off, leaving the financiers behind the projects nervous about costs and shareholder value. There are even suggestions that the quickest way to reach profitability is for the two digital ventures to merge, as did the two competing satellite ventures in the UK, BSB and Sky.

Such a merger seems unlikely. M. Delecour has hinted at the possibility of one - leading to possible savings of \$200 million a year - but so far M. Peloux has been opposed. When digital television comes to the UK later this year, the battle will be different. There will be competition between three rival ways of receiving the new services - digital satellite, digital cable and digital terrestrial television, which like Canal Plus, will broadcast through conventional TV aerials to a special "black-box" decoder.

ALAN TILLIER

## In America, networks have had to develop separate personalities

Pittard Sullivan to craft a branding campaign for later this year. Still, Britain should not expect an exact replication of the American model. "Britain has to brand in a different voice, tone and style than America," says Ed Sullivan, the president and chief executive of Pittard Sullivan. "In America, you have to be more aggressive than what you generally find in England. The British have their own way of being aggressive. America uses a sledgehammer, while the British use a finely crafted chisel."

SUSAN KARLIN

## Too clever by half, Ikea

IKEA knew its new television campaign would be controversial. We've used to jokes in ads about race, sex, even divorce and disabled people in recent years, but unemployment was the last taboo.

Et Ikea, fresh from attacking-hintz, took a calculated risk in its campaign aimed at businesses. A carriage of a management consultant suggests Ikea furniture is cheaper than you think - you could kit out an entire office for the price of a junior employee. It's heavily ironic, lambasting the values of management consultants. Of course, nobody would make it seriously.

Well, at least 400 viewers did. That's the astonishing number who complained to the Independent Television Commission. Many were worried about the implied threat of unemployment in a climate of job insecurity. Some believed the ad might be taken seriously.

Within days of transmission, 150 complaints were received, prompting an amendment to the ad: comparing the office worker's salary to the management consultant's, and asking viewers to decide who should be laid off. It wasn't enough.

Many ads that achieve media notoriety do so on the back of only a handful of complaints. Four hundred is an extraordinary figure.



THE spin-doctors have decided they have an image problem and are seeking spin-doctors of their own. The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the ad industry's trade body, is to hire an external PR consultancy because it feels it can't solve advertising's image problem. You have to chuckle.

Regular readers might think this is because of the appalling way in which the IPA has presented the ad industry's case in the long-running dispute with Equify. Harangued by journalists and criticised by its members for not taking the fight to Equify, the IPA's initial position was that it was "not going to join in the PR battle".

They, if anyone, should know that in today's media landscape this position is simply not an option. It's inconceivable to imagine an agency giving similar advice to one of its clients.

To be fair, the IPA is also sensibly attempting to influence the choice of ad

industry spokesmen made readily available to the media for comment on advertising issues.

The truth is that the media has a negative angle on admen that it prefers to have reconfirmed because it makes for easier copy. It's not as tough a PR task as making Lord Irvine of Lairg seem a good bloke, but it won't be easy.

TODAY'S ad industry is best represented by Abbot Mead Vickers BBDO, revealed in *Campaign* magazine's annual Top 300 Agencies survey this week to be by far Britain's largest ad agency.

AMV took top slot last year, buoyed by the giant BT account. Now, with billings of £356 million, it has opened up an £84 million lead over second-placed Ogilvy & Mather. This makes the agency far more dominant than the original Saatchi & Saatchi ever was.

But AMV is the kind of professional market-leader that the IPA's new spin-doctors will latch on to. It has achieved astonishing success in 20 years through a combination of the creative skills of David Abbot, the joint chairman, on accounts such as Sainsbury's, Volvo, Yellow Pages and *The Economist*, and the business acumen of fellow joint chairman Peter Mead, and the chief executive Michael Baulk.

It has stuck to principles including no redundancies and no political or tobacco accounts. And it has proved that British admen can build a publicly quoted advertising-based marketing services group.

It has started 1998 by winning the Guinness, Halfords and British Digital Broadcasting accounts. With AMV the Manchester United of adland, the battle is now for second place.

Stefano Hatfield is editor of Campaign

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The Ikea ad that prompted 400 viewer complaints

Media Times

# Our woman in Brussels

**Maggie Brown meets Carole Tongue, MEP and a passionate champion of public service broadcasting**

Carole Tongue is a rare creature. She is a Euro MP to be reckoned with. For most voters the activities of European Parliamentarians are of little interest — "overpaid and over there" about sums it up. But Labour member Tongue has dived on media issues with single-minded passion. She is the spokeswoman of the European Socialist Group on Culture and Media.

Since 1994 she has nursed this key specialism — which contains media, the future of the creative industries, youth, a defence of public service broadcasting — and given it a British face.

She is unquestionably influential in shaping media policies, not just in Europe but in Britain. She has the ear of Chris Smith, the Culture and Media Secretary.

For example, Tongue, MEP for London East since 1984, will be prominent at two events. First comes next month's London-based World Summit on Children's Television, expected to draw attention to the way European programmes are threatened by a tidal wave of American cartoons. Then, in Birmingham in April, there is the European audiovisual conference on the digital age (a key meeting associated with the UK's presidency of the EU).

Her input, typically, is to insist that this conference's agenda is balanced to include producers, directors, the talent and the workers, not just the media businessmen.

Tongue is adamant that broadcasting must be regulated separately from telecoms, that an investigative article is different from a fax, and a television programme different from an e-mail. Global market forces need checking because television is a cultural force, not just a commercial product, remains her unshakable stance.

"This conference is absolutely critical. For the first time all the issues will be aired on British soil in a very high-profile way" — employment, funding, regulation of broadcasting and copyright.

There is no love lost between her and David Elstein, the commercially minded chief executive of Channel 5 and

chairman of event organisers the British Screen Advisory Council, who has argued for the BBC licence fee to be replaced by a voluntary subscription.

Last year she demonstrated just how adept her blend of protectionist passion and understanding of the ways of Europe has become. She is thought to be the only MEP to have won, in six months, a change to the treaties, underpinning the EU.

Tongue was the chief lobbyist and force behind a successful bid to attach a protocol enshrining public service broadcasting to the EU treaties. At the Amsterdam summit last summer, this protocol was agreed.

Carole Tongue the person is energetic, down to earth, with a cackle of a laugh. She and her office are ceaseless communicators: press releases, articles, speeches flood out.

But Essex girl met Europe long ago. Tongue, 44, was raised in Uppminster by her Labour-supporting physiotherapist mother. Quakerism shaped her childhood too. Her father, remarried, headed an international organisation in Switzerland. She has five sisters, fanned out across the Continent.

She studied at Loughborough University, drifted around Europe after graduation, but then, in 1979, took tempting jobs with the European Parliament. This progressed to a scholarship, then employment with the Socialist group. In 1984 she surprised herself by landing the nomination for the East London seat, aged 29, the youngest MEP.

A constant theme is her belief that people here have been denied a great deal of information about the EU by misrepresentation and biased reporting ("Teddy Taylor rants") and through years of Thatcherite hostility.

She also observed that British Labour MEPs were largely uninterested in the cultural impact the EU could have. "We are forced by our media to think purely in terms of locality or nation state. There is more to Europe than bent bananas and straight cucumbers."

For example, the full force of European-wide anxieties about American programming and the lack of investment in



Staunch East Ender with vision. Carole Tongue says: "There is more to Europe than bent bananas"

European products will, she thinks, come as a surprise to Britons when the April conference takes place.

Of course, the UK is not typical. A common language makes American programming very welcome here, assisting the spread of satellite and cable television, while at the same time one of the world's greatest public service broadcasters, the BBC, flourishes.

Tongue emerged in 1994-96 as a key media force as the debate focused over renewing the 1989 Television Without Frontiers Directive, which attempts to establish a single television market for Europe (and basic protection). She led the (failed) push to remove the key phrase "wherever practical" from the clause which says that television chan-

nels should screen a majority of European-originated material.

Another suggestion she championed, to force themed satellite and cable channels to reinvest a minimum quota in new European programming, also fell. But in this, and in previous debates, she witnessed the full force of American lobbyists, led by Jack Valenti of the Motion Picture Association of America.

I interviewed Carole in her Islington home. During the 1980s she has said she led a busy but lonely life. It is now shared with husband Chris Pond, who used to run the Low Pay Unit. In 1988 he went to lobby the European Labour Party, he and Tongue got stranded in Brussels airport during the air traffic controllers' strike of 1989, and fell in

love. In May Pond became a Labour MP for Gravesend, Kent. They have a four-year-old daughter.

"The issue of constituency and being a Euro MP is interesting," she says. MEPs have to build one for themselves.

As MEP for East London, with Dagenham on her mind, she did it first with the car industry in 1991 and 1993, lessons she applied to the media. "I organised a conference in Brussels where management, trade unions and specialist academics met."

She is a driven woman. "For me it's about creating a European civil society. Brussels has thousands of lobbyists defending commercial interests. But it's only gradually that the interests of civil society have played a role."

## ITV sells itself short

**Raymond Snoddy on the missing ABCI viewers**

ITV is heading for increasing trouble in the advertising sales market, according to an independent report published today. Billett Consultancy, which specialises in measuring the cost and effectiveness of television advertising campaigns, believes that ITV has promised more ABCI viewers — the sought-after, affluent section of society — than it can deliver.

John Billett, chief executive of Billett's, says that ABCIs are growing in terms of the British population and becoming more attractive to advertisers and the newer categories of advertising, such as telecommunications and business services.

"As a result ITV has seriously shot itself in the foot in two areas — they have underestimated the demand and have not yet developed programmes to increase the ABCI share of their audience, and have sold far too much airtime at a discount that they cannot deliver," says Mr Billett, whose consultancy represents a range of blue-chip advertisers who collectively account for more than 16 per cent of all UK TV advertising expenditure.

The danger is that to reach the proportion of ABCI adults promised, ITV may have to offer further discounted airtime to advertisers.

The difficulties of ITV, Mr Billett believes, offer opportunities for Channel 4, Channel 5 and the satellite companies who are "delivering increasing ABCIs and are doing so at prices cheaper than ITV".

Channel 4 in particular, Billett believes, can undercut ITV on reaching any segment of society if it wants to and is more successful at attracting ABCI advertisers than any other channel.

"ITV is caught between a rock and a hard place," Mr Billett says in a report released in advance of the television advertising industry's annual conference, which opens in Barcelona next week.

Mr Billett believes advertisers should be able to get deeper discounts this year because of the wide range of options available although this will be more difficult for ABCI advertisers. Above all else, he urges advertisers to leave flexibility in their advertising schedules "to take up significant cost opportunities on national channels in 1998. GMTV, CS and satellite channels will be in a position to offer some very attractive deals for certain audiences."

In particular, he advises advertisers to make sure that the ITV companies do not try to get out of their difficulties in the ABCI market by trying to charge more for other categories.

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مكتبة الانجلى



# EDUCATION

Regulation of independent schools is back on the government agenda, says Bruce Kemble, but this time the sector may police itself

## Who should seek out the rotten apples?

Almost 30 years after Margaret Thatcher ended government regulation of independent schools, ministers are considering returning to the fray. This time, however, they may be content to let the leading schools inspect each other, leaving Ofsted to concentrate on those causing concern.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has promised MPs an early decision on a dual system of accreditation, under which the main independent school associations run their own system and Ofsted looks after the rest. The alternative would be to ask the agency to cover the whole sector more thoroughly.

At present, Ofsted carries out full inspections of a handful of independent schools each year, although inspectors make short visits to hundreds of others. Reports on leading schools, such as Roedean and Manchester Grammar, are invariably positive, while those at the opposite end of the independent spectrum often produce horror stories.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has let it be known that he would prefer to concentrate Ofsted's limited resources on what he described in his annual report as "the stubborn minority of about 3 per cent of schools, mostly outside the main independent school associations, which give rise to serious concerns". But that depends on Mr Blunkett agreeing to effective self-regulation for schools educating 80 per cent of the sector's pupils.

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference is anxious that he should make up his mind sooner rather than later, because the schools feel they have reformed their review system satisfactorily, along the lines sketched out by Ofsted 18 months ago. The agency showed appreciation of the HMC's set-up by saying: "There is no reason to doubt their determination to arrive at rigorous and objective evaluations which are useful in underpinning the further progress of schools." Ofsted added: "Their reports are comprehensive and generally well-written. Criticism is not shirked, though its expression is sometimes tentative." But the inspectors pointed out that parents' access to these reports is at the discretion of the schools—and went on to note: "The reliability of some of the judgments made cannot be guaranteed because the collection of evidence and the use of inspection criteria are inadequately monitored."

The Ofsted findings said that although standards were high, few reports seriously tackled the key question of whether the progress pupils made was "all that it should be", and too often inspectors failed to seek to establish a consensus about their main judgments, and failed to monitor the quality of the evidence collected.

Vivian Anthony, the HMC secretary, says all these criticisms have been taken on board and reforms carried out. The HMC's inspection scheme and the Accreditation, Review and Consultancy Service, which is used by the other main associations, are likely to merge within a year.

Mr Anthony stresses that the Government and the better private schools have a common interest in cracking down on the "unrecognised" independent schools. "We tend to get barred with their brush."

Thirty-one years ago, the late Patrick Gordon Walker was the last Labour Education Secretary to start a purge of these schools, and the results are relevant to Mr Anthony's point today. Mr Gordon Walker began by sending in Her Majesty's Inspectorate to see the 314 independent boarding schools not recognised as efficient. He managed to get the inspectors into 208 of these schools and only 25 were found to be "up to minimum state school standard".

Some avoided being inspected by getting rid of their boarders. Fifty-two closed down before the inspectors got through the door. Fourteen shut after the inspection. Six were found to have fewer than six pupils.

A year later, the number of day schools had risen to 1,379 because the boarding schools had ejected their boarders. These were the next on the list to be inspected. But the 1970 election intervened, and the

incoming Government scrapped the inspectors. Despite the view that Margaret Thatcher, the Education Secretary, would not wish to be seen letting sub-standard schools off the hook, Lord Selstead, her junior minister, announced their re-privilege.

Much later, Ofsted was set up and the HMC started its own inspection system. Mr Anthony says: "Ours was pretty close to the Ofsted model, with the significant difference that we decided our inspections would be done in the main by senior classroom teachers."

But what about the thousand or so schools which are not in the main associations? "There is almost no relationship between schools that are in Independent Schools Council and those that do not belong," says Mr Anthony. "They are almost a different breed."

Schools outside the main associations are inspected by Ofsted, but Mr Anthony says: "The chance of them getting a regular inspection is tiny. I get copies of their Ofsted reports—I do not think I get ten a year. On this basis, a school would have a fair chance of not being inspected in 100 years."

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, in a speech to the North of England Education Conference, raised the possibility of a "kite-mark" for independent schools. Mr Anthony is reserving judgment. "We'd be interested to know what a Kite-mark is," he says.



Pupils playing cricket at Roedean. Reports on such schools are glowing, but other establishments let the side down

**'A school might not be inspected for 100 years'**

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For advice, please contact:  
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**POSTS**

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Anyone who wishes to be considered for the position, or anyone who wishes to suggest a name to the Fellows, is invited to write in confidence, by Saturday 18 April 1998, to the Senior Fellow, Mr J M Kaye, at Queen's College, Oxford OX1 4AW, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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Enquiries for further details and all applications should be addressed to:

The Headmaster  
Marlborough House School  
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The Milton Keynes Economic Partnership, of which the Chamber of Commerce Training and Enterprise is a partner, has a mission to make Milton Keynes and North Bucks a better place to work and do business. To this end we will shortly be launching a new Lifelong Learning Partnership Initiative to maximise education opportunities for all.

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For further details contact:  
Lesley Good, Milton Keynes Economic Partnership,  
Tempus, 249 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 1EU  
Telephone 01908 660101 Closing date: Friday 20 March 1998

**POSTS**

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Further particulars may be obtained from The Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago (tel: (1 868) 662 2002; fax: (1 868) 663 9684) to whom applications (two copies) giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, date of birth, nationality, marital status and the names and addresses of three referees, one of whom should be from your present organisation, should be sent as soon as possible. Further particulars are also available from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (46-49/2), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PE, UK (tel: 0171 387 8572 ext. 206; fax: 0171 383 0368; email: appts@acu.ac.uk).

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**CLIFTON COLLEGE**

**Invites applicants for the post of Bursar**

Following the appointment of Mr N Durkin as Bursar of Charterhouse School in September 1998.

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The Bursar is responsible to the College Council for financial management, property matters and all non-teaching services.

The successful candidate must have strong financial and management experience and be capable of working as part of a dynamic, forward-looking executive team.

For further information and application form, write or fax to Clifton College (Department TB), 32 College Road, Clifton, BRISTOL BS8 3JH. (Fax: 0117 946 6826).

The closing date for completed applications is Thursday, 19 March.

**ST. GEORGE'S HOUSE, WINDSOR CASTLE  
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Closing date for applications: 20 March, 1998.

Further information may be obtained from the Warden, Professor Alfred P. Smyth  
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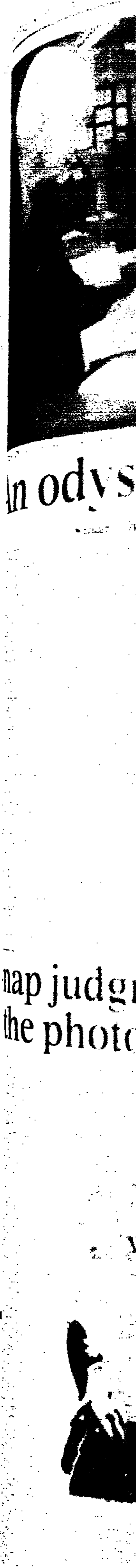
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David Philby gives "extension" classes in Ancient Greek, maths, geography, science and computer work to pupils in need of "stretching"

## An odyssey for the young

If you think that 11-year-olds studying Ancient Greek and Latin, 14-year-olds taking and passing GCSE in classical civilisation and 16-year-olds achieving good A/S level grades in the subject, while preparing to embark on an Open University undergraduate module on Homer, sounds like an "elitist" independent school project, think again.

For the Cornelius Vermuyden School in Canvey Island, South Essex, is no bastion of privilege. Far from it. The 11-16 mixed comprehensive school in unprepossessing 1970s buildings lies at the heart of a council estate. Many of its pupils come from socio-economically deprived backgrounds. Last year only 34 per cent of its 16-year-old pupils achieved five A-C grades at GCSE. The natural speech mode of the pupils and some of the staff is "Estuary".

Ten years ago Steve Harrington, head of history and a self-taught classics enthusiast, began teaching 0-level classical civilisation as a lunchtime "extension" to a class of bright, volunteer 14 and 15-year-olds in Year 10. Much encouraged by their 100 per cent pass rate for a course they had covered in a single year, Mr Harrington was soon making it an annual event for Year 9.

For the past seven years Mr

### Susan Elkin meets the pupils and teachers behind an Essex comprehensive's success in classical education

Harrington has taught a GCSE classical civilisation group of 25-30 pupils twice-weekly during lunch breaks. They meet more often nearer the exam. Pupils are two years younger than the normal age for GCSE.

Included in their reading matter is most of Homer's *Odyssey* in translation. They also prepare a course-work project. Among last year's topics were the history of the Olympic Games, Pompeii and Roman gods. Friends of Classics, the Hellenic Society and the Roman Society have provided some of the books.

Lee Jenkins, 13, just settling into a companionable, crisp-munching lunch-time session when I met him, said: "It's quite an interesting subject and the stories are good." Like most of the pupils I spoke to, he is primarily motivated by ambition: "It looks impressive if you've done a GCSE two years early," he added with a twinkle.

About half of those who pass GCSE in Year 9 continue classical studies at A/S level, which includes reading Homer's *Iliad*. "It's not as good as the *Odyssey*," said Tiffany, aged 15. "More meta-

phorical," observed James, aged 15.

The A/S level is done during school time alongside GCSE options. "It's a heavy workload," pointed out Paul in Year 10. "I'm doing 11 GCSEs as well."

Mr Harrington acknowledges that it is a big commitment for the pupils. He comments modestly: "I think their success is due to about 80 per cent stamina and hard work, and 20 per cent brain power."

The school has entered five A/S level groups of around 12 pupils each since 1992 and only two individuals have failed. The pupils attribute their success to Mr Harrington's enthusiasm and confidence. "I think you should write that none of it is ever boring thanks to Sir," said Sabrina, a Year 11 pupil. "He knows exactly what we have to do and sweeps us along with him. That's why we do well," added Paul.

At the other end of the school, in Years 7 and 8, David Philby, another teacher, withdraws an "extension" group from lessons once a week rotating the lesson time so that they do not keep missing the

same period. About 20 are selected as in need of "stretching". Mr Philby puts them through a programme which includes Ancient Greek — as well as Latin soon — alongside non-standard maths, geography, science and computer work.

All the pupils currently in Year 8 are thrilled to have passed a certificate in elementary Ancient Greek set by East Midlands Association of Classical Teaching (EMACT). "We learnt the Greek alphabet and a bit about how to read it. In the exam we had to translate things," explained Mitchell Graham, aged 12. It provides a good basis, both Mr Philby and Mr Harrington believe, for the classical civilisation GCSE which many of these pupils will tackle next year.

Cornelius Vermuyden School's most innovative idea is already in place. Nine pupils from Years 10 and 11, five local adults and one young former pupil currently doing A levels in the sixth form of a nearby grammar school are enrolled on the Open University's Level 2 course A295: Homer, Poetry and Society.

Mr Harrington has been appointed by the OU as tutor.

FDR (First Data Resources), an Essex-based finance company, has offered sponsorship towards the pupils' OU fees, and the head teacher David Crowe is confident of attracting more to minimise the amount that these young students will need to contribute. The school, which is grant-maintained, will in any case support any financially constrained pupil wanting to do the OU course.

"Our school-based OU venture is unique as far as we know," Mr Harrington said, "but we are hoping that it will spread. The OU seems to be interested in it as a pilot project. There are already other departments in the school expressing interest in attempting something similar."

His fearless encouragement of high achievement in the very young seems also to be rattling other departments at Cornelius Vermuyden. "A lot of heads of department are reviewing their early entry exam policy in the light of our classical civilisation success," Mr Harrington said.

## Going Dutch brings the world's students together

Iola Smith on the opening of an international study centre in Maastricht for undergraduates

A NEW Centre for Transatlantic Studies opens its doors to British students next week. Based at the Japanese-owned Teikyo University at Maastricht, Holland, it is the culmination of a two-year collaboration between the Universities of Glamorgan, Central Missouri, US, and Växjö in Sweden.

The instigator was Central Missouri's international officer, Terry Rodenburg. Some American universities demand that students spend part of their course abroad. Central Missouri achieved this objective by transferring staff and students to its European base in London. But it did not provide students with a truly international experience.

To that end, the Americans joined forces with Glamorgan and Sweden. "We all saw the importance of bringing students and staff from America and Europe together to explore common themes," said Glamorgan's Maastricht co-ordinator, the history and American stud-

ies lecturer, Dr Neil Wynn. "Exchanges to America can cost students up to £3,000. By bringing the Americans to Europe, such costs can be reduced. And by being in Holland, both the British and American students gain an insight into European history and culture."

In fact, the perspective being explored by the participants on this month's first course is even broader than the founding universities expected: eight other universities from America, Mexico, Eastern Europe and Britain (the University of Central Lancashire, Preston), have decided to join the centre. They are sending students for up to a semester (15 weeks) and seconding staff to teach the courses.

Among the topics being studied are international communications, psychology, human rights, and nationalism and national identity in a global environment.

The autumn semester will consider themes such as the effects of the First World

War on the 20th century and environmental issues. Next year there are plans to explore multiculturalism and the significance of the millennium for transatlantic relations.

Field visits to locations covered by the course, such as the International Court at The Hague, the European Union buildings in Brussels and the sites of the First World War battlefields in northern France, are expected to be part of the programme.

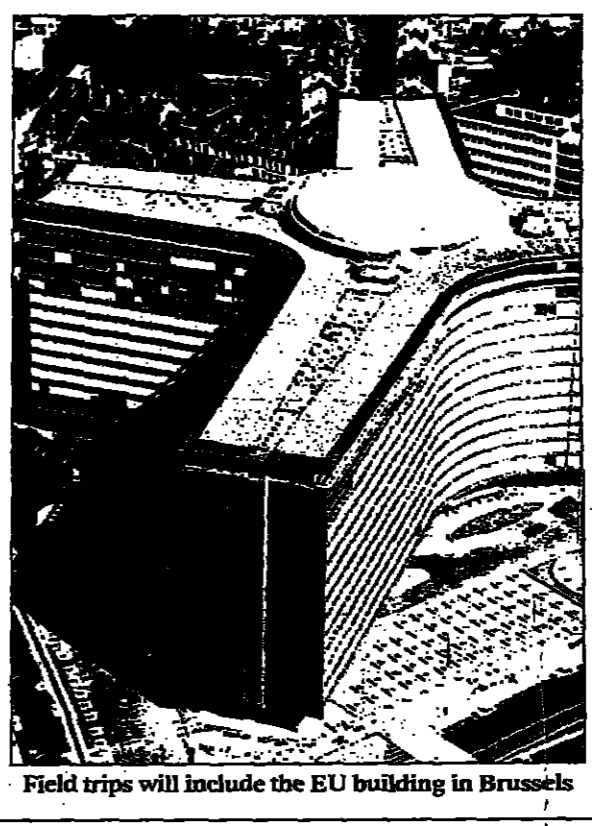
Students will study modules or entire courses at the centre. Tuition is in English, but students can learn a European language if they wish.

"Although we are initially concentrating on humanities and social science courses, we are planning to offer other subjects in future," Dr Wynn said. "The Mexicans from Monterey University are particularly keen to introduce business studies courses, and we believe that there will be scope for courses on international law, geography and population movements."

However, developments of this kind are dependent on revenue. The three founding universities are seeking funds to finance increased participation from Eastern Europe. "We expect we will have to subsidise them," said Dr Wynn.

Glamorgan's students are being paid for by the university. One of the first to benefit is Lesley Hodgson. A mature student and a mother of four from Merthyr Tydfil in the South Wales Valleys, she is in her second year studying sociology and philosophy. "I would never have had the chance to study abroad without the university's involvement in the Maastricht centre," she said.

Being there will give her an insight into the teaching methods of American and European universities. It will also encourage lecturers from participating universities to undertake joint research projects as well as collaborative teaching programmes.



Field trips will include the EU building in Brussels

## Snap judgments that stifle the photographer's art

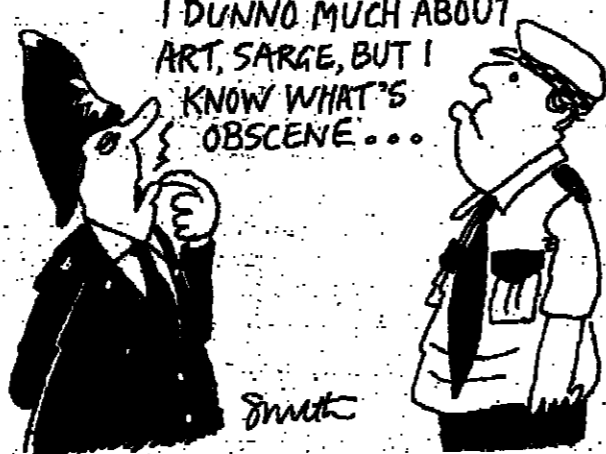
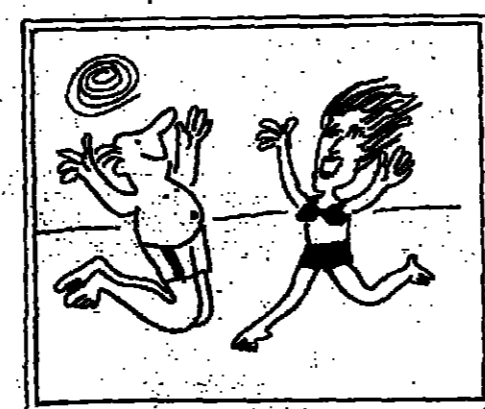
The seizure by West Midlands Police of a book about the controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe from the library of the University of Central England, reported this week, has shocked academics, photographers and students. And rightly so. As the university says, only by exposure to work such as Mapplethorpe's can "informed art criticism and analysis take place", and attempts by police to have the book destroyed, raise serious questions about academic freedom.

Thankfully, such dramatic gestures as those employed by West Midlands Police are rare. Dr Peter Knight, the university's Vice-Chancellor, has "never known anything like this in 30 years of academic life". It makes front-page news precisely because police raids on university libraries do not happen every day. So is this controversy a mere blip in an academic world which is, in general, free and open to all ideas and expressions, a world in which censorship is a thing of the less enlightened past? If only it were.

The Mapplethorpe controversy at UCE points to a much broader problem facing lecturers and students in photography. Photography departments and libraries are not raided regularly but there is a general suspicion surrounding nude photography and its study in an educational context that makes censorship of such controversial images a more widespread and subtle danger than anyone might first suspect.

Last year at Stockton and Billingham College of Further Education, Denis Dunning, a photography lecturer, was pressed to resign from a job he had held for more than 20 years because one of his mature students had taken semi-nude photographs of another mature student. The photographs showed a young

### Academic inquiry is marred when the law sees only pornography through the lens, writes Jennie Bristow



woman wearing a swimsuit and all but one of the students in the City & Guilds photography evening class were consenting adults. Life drawing classes for fine-art students are freely available at most art institutions, but the offending images were photographs and the fact that they hinted at nudity was enough to warrant an investigation into Dunning and his students, Dunning's resignation, and the closure of the class.

Not surprisingly, the Stock-

ton and Billingham case ricocheted throughout photography departments in colleges around Britain, as other lecturers were forced to re-examine their own practices. Photography courses generally contain scope for life modelling, and if one thinks of the significance of the human form in society, it would seem nonsensical to exclude this from a full syllabus. But some colleges already prohibit life modelling on their courses; at my old college, Stafford Coll-

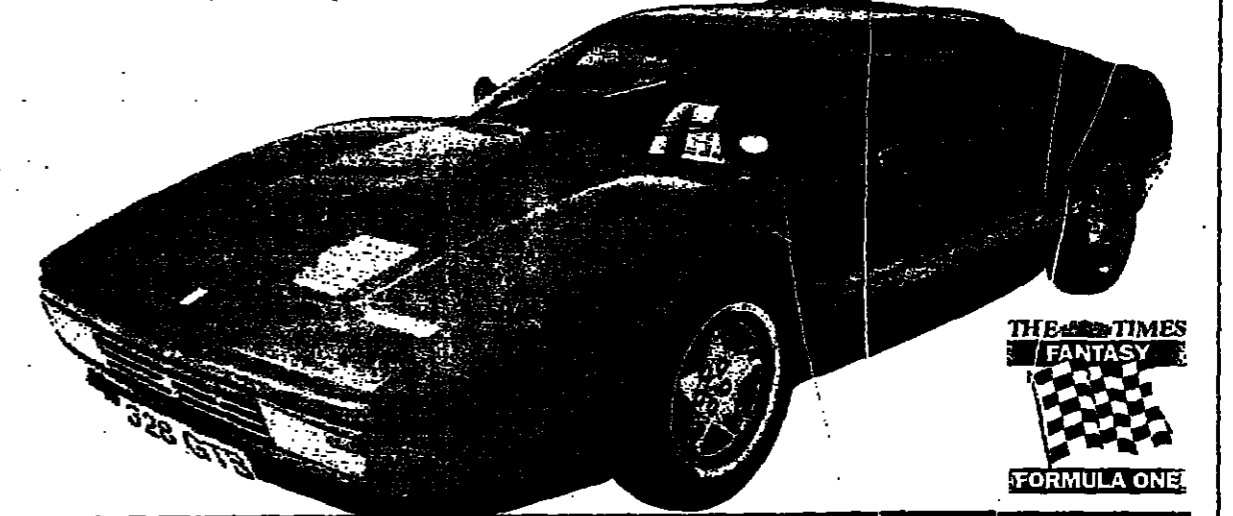
ege of Further Education, staff agreed some time ago not to use life models because of the danger of misinterpretation. Lecturers elsewhere continue to allow nude photography but not without a certain amount of trepidation. As Chris Warren from Evesham College says: "If this can happen in a small college like Stockton and Billingham, it can happen in a little college like ours."

Philip Stokes, a former photography lecturer, has spent many years campaigning for a more tolerant attitude to nude photography in the academic world. Speaking at the Free Speech Wars event organised by the Institute of Contemporary Arts and LM magazine last weekend, he argued that the tendency to treat aesthetic material with the blunt instrument of the obscenity laws assumes the most of the motives on the part of the photographer. Nowhere is this problem clearer than in the world of teaching and studying photography. Whenever lecturers' students are attacked for the images they produce or study, it is assumed that they are not capable of making an aesthetic or artistic judgment about the material. They are treated as the creators or the viewers of pornography, whose interest in the subject is entirely voyeuristic.

The real blow to the academic freedom held by photography lecturers and students is not the occasional police raid. It is the prevalent suspicion that lies all around us, which forces lecturers to revise their syllabuses and students to turn their course work lest someone should "misinterpret" what they do. This suspicion could tar all photography students and lecturers with the brush of a pornographer, denying them the right to academic inquiry into photographic art.

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RACING: JOCKEY ANXIOUS TO AVOID INJURY AFTER MISSING TOP MEETING FOR LAST THREE YEARS

Maguire treads careful path to Festival

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

IT BEGAN as a fairytale, before turning into a nightmare. Now, as the days tick by to the most famous and exhilarating National Hunt meeting in the world, Adrian Maguire hardly dares to think about the Cheltenham Festival.

Almost seven years ago, he passed since Maguire, then just 19, made his first visit to England a triumphant one by landing a memorable victory on Omerta in the Fullalwell Wain Kim Muir Chase.

Rarely has a new talent made such a dramatic impact on National Hunt's main stage - which made his absence from the Festival for each of the past three years all the more keenly felt.

In other sports, if a player misses out on a big event he or she can quickly gain compensation. In golf, there are four "majors", not just the one. In cricket, Test matches abound. Football has the League and ever more Cups. But in the weighing room occupied by jump jockeys, nothing can make up for missing three days at the Cheltenham Festival - not even Aintree, which is becoming more and more a one-race meeting.

A good Festival can produce a bumper five-figure cheque for a jockey at the end of the month but, as Maguire knows only too well, that is secondary to the glory.

The Irishman said: "All winners at Cheltenham are remembered - unlike those on a Monday on Tuesday at Plumpton or Fontwell - and it only comes around once a year. It is nice to be part of the

action. Aintree, although it has the Grand National as the big race, doesn't have the same buzz. There are so many big races at Cheltenham; to win just one, no matter what it is, is such a thrill."

Maguire missed the 1995 Cheltenham Festival when his mother, Phyllis, died on the eve of the meeting. Twelve months later, he added to his lengthy injury record when he broke a collarbone for the first time at Newbury, a fortnight before the Festival.

And a year ago, he completed a most unwanted treble, which was a triumph in itself.

Maguire points out how supportive "the Duke" has been during his times on the sidelines, while insisting he stepped himself up to the task of being stable jockey when he returns. "I have to come back and prove to him I am still capable of holding down the job," he said.

The last Festival winner enjoyed by Maguire was the Nicholson-trained Mysliv in the 1994 Triumph Hurdle, and there are strong hopes that Maguire can repeat the feat in this year's renewal with Zafarabad. The master of Jackdaws Castle will again be providing most of Maguire's Cheltenham ammunition. "I would safely say everybody in the yard can race over Cheltenham because there will no horses left to do up," he said.

There are only limited precautions he can adopt to prevent the unthinkable. "David Nicholson had a word with me and told me not to be riding horses there is no need to be riding in novice chases. You won't be catching me on something that has fallen on its last two starts."

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Maguire, on Barton Bank, leads Richard Dunwoody and One Man at Cheltenham

Llewellyn fined for refusing to accept ride

CARL LLEWELLYN refused to ride a declared mount at Ludlow yesterday and was fined £315 before finding his stride and completing a 125-1 treble aboard Pimberley Place, Madam Muck and Bosuns Mate for Nigel Twiston-Davies.



Forster: four winners

Llewellyn declined to partner Out Of The Blue in the EBF Tattersalls (Ireland) Mares' Novices' Chase (Qualifier) and the stewards decided he should race peacefully. Robert Bellamy took over in the saddle on the Malcolm Eckley-trained mare, making her chasing debut, and the pair parted company unceremoniously at the first fence.

Llewellyn said: "My agent, Chris Broad, booked the ride on the proviso she had schooled well, which he was told she had. However, when I got there three separate people I trust advised me 'What are you doing riding this?' They said that they had heard she was a chancey jumper and my boss, Nigel Twiston-Davies, said he was also unhappy about me riding the horse. So I decided not to."

The combination had earlier struck with problem horse Pimberley Place, who was winning his first race for over two years, when turning the Forbra Gold Challenge Cup Handicap Chase at Newbury. "The ten-year-old has a habit of not starting in his races, but the trainer left

nothing to chance when accompanying the horse to the start and making sure he jumped off with the rest of the field. He eventually passed the post with 20 lengths to spare over Nirvana Prince, Shrove Peasey and Twiston-Davies, a fourth winner of the afternoon, at Taunton.

Another trainer to enjoy four victories was Tim Forster, who was also at Ludlow to welcome back Lady High Sheriff after her success in the novice chase. The trainer was also on the mark with Final Hand and Lancrastran Jet at Taunton and Music Therapy at Lingfield.

"I've two four-timers before, one at Chesham and one at Newbury, in the dim and distant past but this is my first four-timer across the card," Forster said.

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The Grey Monk has Kelso workout

GREYSTOKE trainer said "But he's going the right way". The Grey Monk is quoted at 10-1 for the Gold Cup by Ladbrokes, which offers 20-1 about Addington Boy, reported "in good form" after a pipe-opener over hurdles at Newcastle last month. A Cheltenham target has still to be decided for Unguided Missie. The trio will be joined in their gallop by Jigtime, who is entered for the Christies Foxhunters' Chase.

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Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Winner. Includes 3.20 MOTT & CHANDON HANDICAP CHASE, 3.20 MOTT & CHANDON HANDICAP CHASE.

RUGBY UNION: CELTIC NATIONS AIM TO BOUNCE BACK FROM HEFTY DEFEATS IN WEMBLEY CONFRONTATION

Wales and Scotland share single objective

Psychologically, Wales have a severe Old Man of Hoy to climb tomorrow whereas, for Scotland, it might be one of their gentler, but still challenging, Munros. What distinguishes one from the other lies as much in the expectations each country had before the season began as in the contrasting prominence that rugby enjoys within their respective boundaries.

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

Scotland, on the other hand, had no such thoughts. A dire autumn persuaded them that any success from now on, however modest, would be gratefully received. If they lost it was no more than the early predictions suggested. To win would be an unexpected bonus.

cum of success, in the past but such players did opt to play permanently in their changed circumstances at club level also. The pace of international rugby is such that there is no time to prepare a response to the next move. The response, largely as a result of experience, must arise instinctively.

For sure, whatever the extent of the promptings, Scotland, from a different perspective, will still want victory as urgently as Wales. But the scent of failure will not percolate quite so deeply into Glasgow or Aberdeen, let alone along the lochs and glens of Scotland, as it surely will into pob twll a chornel - every nook and cranny - of Wales, where there will be no escape.

He must prove himself the general of all he surveys. If the drive goes well for his team at Twickenham, he must command the game so as to bring out the best of all those around him. In other words, to play as he unfailingly seems to do for Pontypridd. He is hugely influential for his club, where he is always urging his midfield players into action, teasing the opposition's defence and creating the space for his try-scoring wingers. He is the fulcrum of the club team. He must prove that he is so in the national team as well.

Indeed, the same could have been said about the team that was originally chosen to play England. Calling for changes can be a knee-jerk reaction, when the point is that there are no outstanding candidates making a better claim from the sidelines.

There appears to be prevarication in selection. Against Tonga and New Zealand last November, Jenkins was the preferred option at fly half. In the two internationals in February, against Italy and England, Arwel Thomas had once more resumed the mantle that he had worn in three of the championship games last season. Jonathan Davies played in the fourth.



Jenkins has the chance to make the Wales fly half position his own and not merely for his goalkicking skills

Ireland are wary of newcomer

FROM DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

IRELAND, in need of all the comfort they could find as they flew last night from Dublin to Paris, will dismiss the loss to France of Christophe Dominici 48 hours before the game tomorrow at the Stade de France.

from the prolonged absence through injury of Emile Ntamack, both at club and country level. His fluid running style earned him a place in the Toulouse team that contested the Heineken Cup this season and he would have played at under-21 level against England last month but for the increase to seven the number of permitted replacements, which took him to the bench against the senior England side.



miss games through injury. Almost every player involved in the victory over England and Scotland has signed the charter, as has Abdelatif Benazzi, last season's grand-slam captain, who is injured. Clearly the players appreciate the insurance the charter offers against injury or loss of form.

France are far more sensible than in England. Few players are in receipt of more than £50,000 from their club and there are probably no more than five fully-professional clubs in France - Brive, Toulouse, Stade Francais, Castres and Montpellier.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

Legal notices section containing various public notices, company announcements, and legal proceedings. Includes sections for 'PUBLIC NOTICES', 'LEGAL NOTICES', and 'LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES'.

FOR THE RECORD

Sports results section for various leagues including Basketball, Bowls, Boxing, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Squash, and Tennis. Includes league names, match details, and scores.

Gatland ready to think the unthinkable

Karl Johnston finds the new Ireland coach undaunted by the task ahead

The bookmakers are offering 33-1 against an Ireland win in Paris tomorrow and local punters are firm in their belief that the odds are not long enough. Ireland's last victory on French soil - ignoring the unofficial international at Auch almost ten years ago - was in 1972, and an equally dismal record is the fact that the visit to the Parc des Princes always resulted in defeat.

some confidence into the team so that the guys can see some goals to try to reach." Which sounds like wishful thinking, but the memory of Gatland's achievements with Galwegians and then Connacht gives you pause. In his initial tenure with Galwegians, Gatland and his wife, Trudi, got any amount of local support during the trauma of the death of their first-born child, before returning home to New Zealand. He did not forget; when Eddie O'Sullivan resigned as the province's coach at the start of last season, Gatland instantly responded to the phone call that he got from the Connacht branch president, Billy Glynn, in the middle of the New Zealand night and, two days later, joined the squad on its tour of Sweden.



I am a genuinely positive person

Gatland is in situ only for Ireland's remaining Five Nations Championship matches of this season, aided by the former international centre, Philip Danaher. But it may be assumed that even a successful, damage-limiting exercise would be enough to keep him in the job, given the collapse of the Irish Rugby Football Union's dewy-eyed affair with Brian Ashton.

Galway and scored a late try, courtesy of a Gatland-inspired 14-man lineout. The play did not win the match, but it was an indication of the coach's innovative approach.

marked by excellent performances, not least the horse and away victories over Northampton; the fact that Gatland mostly put his trust in local players, rather than the more usual rejects from the other provinces, was another indication of the "Paddy Factor".

Only hopeless optimists would expect the "Paddy Factor" to cause an unprecedented upturn tomorrow; like the old song says, "You Gotta Have Heart", and Warren Gatland certainly has that, in full measure.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off. Visible text includes 'Wherton a return ball prod...', 'and returns in...', 'sistan in final', 'arne aims', and 'Douglas still'. There is also a small portrait of a man at the bottom right.

CRICKET

Atherton predicts a return to full productivity

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BARBADOS

MICHAEL ATHERTON has always said that he will be the first to know when his days in Test cricket are numbered...

Because of who he is, how long he has been around and what he has achieved, any slump in run production by Atherton is deemed a crisis...

Boycott has described Atherton as batting like "a shuffling, hunched crab". Atherton begs to differ. "Last year, when we arrived in New Zealand from Zimbabwe, I was playing badly and I recognised it. I identified the fault, sought some help and took myself off to sort it out."



Atherton: content

Rashid returns to lead Pakistan in final Test

PAKISTAN have been led by seven different captains during the past 14 months (two Tennant writes). This goes some way to explaining the infighting that constantly prevents them from becoming as consistent a side as they should be.

Rashid is fit again after his neck injury and is intent on playing and keeping wicket. The side that will take the field at St George's Park here in Port Elizabeth today includes four others who have led Pakistan. Moiz Khan will play as a batsman and Yasir Aqil is included.



Hours of practice on the dry slopes have brought Morris within reach of achieving her ambition of winning a medal in the Paralympics

Morris casts caution aside in gold rush

Daniel Johnson on the British skier chasing medals in the Paralympic Games in Nagano

No one can say that the Japanese have not been thorough. From heated roller seats to practical phrase books, this year's Olympians have wanted for nothing in their temporary home.

Daniel Johnson on the British skier chasing medals in the Paralympic Games in Nagano

sking. Five years on, and married last April, Morris now has the confidence of an athlete in winning form. She admits that the years immediately after the accident were difficult to bear, but she is frank about losing her independence and coping with the mental effects of having a disability.

Daniel Johnson on the British skier chasing medals in the Paralympic Games in Nagano

falling can be "a bit nasty". It does not take much imagination to picture something very nasty indeed. When sit-skiers take a tumble at breakneck speed, they always take the chair that they have strapped themselves into with them, not to mention their "outriggers", hand-held poles with small skis for balance.

Warne aims to be full of beans

Shane Warne's colorful concerns took an unexpected twist yesterday on the eve of one of the most important Test series of his career. The Australia leg spinner, who has spent years trying to keep down his weight, has been so badly hit off his dietary length by the cuisine in India since arriving there a fortnight ago that drastic action has had to be taken.

Simon Wilde says leading bowler is feeling deprived by shortage of comfort food

(ACB) they would donate 40 cases each of beans and spaghetti. If these were consumed by Warne alone during the remaining 49 days of the nine-week tour of India and Sharjah he would need to put away 40 tins a day but the ACB stressed that they were for the whole team, which did not stop the Australian media dubbing Warne "Mr Bean".

Warne aims to be full of beans

1991-92. Warne's first season in Test cricket. He missed a short tour of India two years ago because he was recovering from surgery on his bowling hand. The pitches, which are slow and low in bounce, will pose problems Warne has encountered only once before, during the 1996 World Cup. India possess some of the world's finest players of spin and Sachin Tendulkar meted out some severe punishment to Warne during a sparkling double-century last week for Bombay, where Warne conceded 111 runs in 16 overs. He has yet to dismiss the young Indian in seven meetings.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

"Deception" is one of the most difficult aspects of the game, both for declarer and defenders. Deception in defence is something the best avoided until you are a very experienced player - the person most often fooled by the "deception" of an inexperienced defender is his partner.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards in spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs for both sides.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's favourite

Garry Kasparov has perfected his black defence in the Scheveningen variation of the Sicilian Defence, until it is almost impervious to White's efforts. It was Kasparov's repeated use of this variation in his 1985 world championship match against Anatoly Karpov that ultimately resulted in Karpov's conversion from playing 1 e4 on the first move to 1 d4 as his favoured weapon.

Linares update

In the tenth round of the elite tournament at Linares, Spain, Anand drew with Kasparov. Ivanchuk beat Swidler and Topalov lost to Shirov. Thus Shirov regains the lead.

WINNING MOVE

Chessboard diagram showing a specific position and the winning move for White.

Douglas still a vintage to savour

By RICHARD EATON

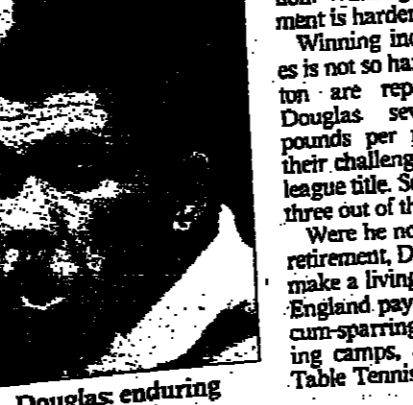
IF, AS expected, Desmond Douglas takes his record of English titles to 30 in the English national championships that start at Bath today, it will be perhaps the most improbable of all his achievements. Over a quarter of a century Douglas has become the most publicised British player since the Fifties. He is the possessor of the fastest reactions in the game and the blocker of the 100mph shots from close to the table: the European Top 12 champion and the winner of a record 19 out of 19 European championship matches for England. He is an MBE, a maverick and a maker of shots never before seen.

Simon Wilde says leading bowler is feeling deprived by shortage of comfort food

Jamaica-born left-hander, who is self-taught, cannot be ruled out of contention for a twelfth singles title and that he remains a contender, in a sport favouring the reflexes of youth, at the age of 42. True, a likely quarter-final with Carl Prean, the former national champion, may prove too high a hurdle and Matt Syed, the holder, is rightly seeded to win again, but Douglas remains, even with limited competition now, in the leading five players.

Douglas still a vintage to savour

He is not entirely happy at the prospect, though. "The situation's the same as it always was," Douglas said. "They should have developed new players long ago and they still want to use me to promote things. I could do without that kind of pressure now." However, the pressure of a national championship is different. Douglas has done it all before and does not have to win anything again to press his claims to greatness. But, as he is still faster than many, still as slender as ever and still enjoying it more than anyone, he probably will.



Douglas: enduring

WORD-WATCHING

- TETCH a. A tantrum b. A gardener's dibbler c. A type of spaniel
TIVOLI a. A style of hat b. A board game c. Cooked with tomatoes

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Fontaine - Clemens, Groningen 1997. Although White won this game quickly he missed the chance for a beautiful combination which would have checkmated Black in six moves. Can you see it? Solution on page 58

Kevin Eason in Melbourne explains why more drivers have designs on the world title

# Changes throw championship wide open

MARCASLAND

David Coulthard lounged on a fence, head cupped in his hands, chatting to passers-by. Heinz-Harald Frentzen went for a walk with his girlfriend and Mika Salo passed the time roller-blading down the pit straight.

Eddie Jordan and Michael Schumacher did not even feel the need to turn up at the track until yesterday. But this was the calm before the storm that will break over Formula One at the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday, when four months of waiting and wondering turn to stark certainty.

For the first time in almost two decades, there is no way of knowing who faces a year of success or the gnawing fate of frustration. For new rules have forced changes to cars so wide-ranging and complex that the form book has been torn up.

The regulations have forced teams to design and build new cars that bear little resemblance to their 1997 predecessors. The task was so difficult that teams have been working right up to the last minute to be ready for this weekend. Everything is new and untried. The cars might have done thousands of miles of testing over the winter but none has been pitched into battle in the heat of an Australian summer, which could massively alter the performance of new, grooved tyres so far only tested on cold European circuits.

Ferrari covered more than 6,000 miles in testing but Jean Todt, the team's race director, said yesterday: "It is a lot, but it is never enough. We are just approaching the first race and it will be interesting because we don't know exactly what will happen - but it will be the same for everybody."

Williams come to Melbourne as favourites, mainly because they have the world champion, Jacques Villeneuve, in a car that has undergone more testing than any other on the grid, but also because everyone expects Williams to have solved the engineering conundrums set by the new regulations. They have lost the backing of Renault, though, and it remains to be seen whether their French supplier, Mecachrome, can keep up the pace of engine development.

Michael Schumacher was



Road ahead: Hill, now part of a formidable Jordan-Honda team with Ralf Schumacher, will be pursuing a second world championship after a disappointing season with Arrows.

openly gloomy yesterday about his prospects, ruling out the chance of victory here in Melbourne. Ferrari did all their testing in secret at their private test track at Mugello in Italy, which suggests that the new Ross Brawn-Rory Byrne inspired F300 is proving troublesome to develop, perhaps explaining Todt's low-key comments.

McLaren, though, look supremely confident, their car having been honed by Adrian Newey, the design expert lured from Williams, and having probably the most powerful engines, from Mercedes.

Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen also look the two drivers with most potential. John Watson, the former McLaren driver, who won five grands prix, certainly thinks so. "If it is not Jacques Villeneuve, then it will be the McLaren boys," Watson said. "Michael [Schumacher] looked a couple of times last season as though he was losing his edge and who knows whether he will be able to carry the team again if the car is not up to it?"

The rule changes might suit some drivers more than others. The cars this year are 10 per cent narrower (maxi-

mum width 1.8 metres) and have grooved tyres with 25 per cent less grip than the track-hugging slicks of last season. This could mean a year of slipping and sliding, except for those drivers whose style is smooth and accurate.

One such is Damon Hill, who is desperate to return to winning ways, as much for the sake of Eddie Jordan, still waiting for his first grand-prix victory after seven seasons, as for himself. Much depends on whether the Jordan is good enough and that will not become evident until qualifying tomorrow.

The FIA, Formula One's ruling body, ordered the changes to make cars safer - with stronger and larger cockpits - and slower, with the simple intention of bringing cars closer together for more overtaking and therefore a more thrilling spectacle, vital to attract television audiences. What the FIA may have inadvertently done is to create cars less controllable when overtaking, while at the same time handing a bigger advantage to the top teams.

Ron Dennis, McLaren's managing director, said: "The

best-funded teams have always been the source of new ideas and then the rest of the field catches up. The leading teams will be way ahead with their development and testing programmes, which will be a big advantage."

Because the cars are narrower, they have smaller wing surfaces, which means less downforce generated by air flowing over the bodywork. Add to that tyres with three grooves, which means less rubber on the track, and high-speed cornering becomes a task for the bold, more than the brave.

Or not, because every opinion offered here this week is different. Villeneuve believes that the cars will be harder to drive and hopeless for risky overtaking. Hakkinen thinks that the cars are just different and will soon be running at the same pace as the 1997 versions.

If the drivers themselves cannot agree, then trying to predict the outcome of a championship that could be the closest for years will have to wait. The race on Sunday may give the first real pointer in the seasonal battle.

## Hill's ambition heightened after year in wilderness

FROM KEVIN EASON

THOSE trademark eyebrows were furrowed into a deep frown as he scurried away from the Jordan factory last month. Damon Hill, the former world champion racing driver, had spent the day in Northamptonshire preparing his new Formula One car. But Damon Hill, husband and father, had other priorities: his wife, Georgie, was expecting their fourth child at any moment and he had to dash home to Dublin.

In Melbourne yesterday, though, the smile was wide and the mood relaxed because Hill was back at work. Relishing the prospect of action again, he observed that the demands of Formula One seemed a relief from the pressures of helping to run a young family, now joined by a new daughter in Rosie. He has been in the beach here and indulged in his favourite pastime of motorcycling in Australia's hot sun.

There are no signs of the prickly Hill of last year, when his mood darkened immediately after that spectacularly bad start in Melbourne, where his TWR Arrows car spluttered to a standstill on the parade lap. He does not expect a similar start with Jordan this season and is itching to get back on the track. There was an enforced absence of two months because his Arrows contract did not expire until January 1 and then a patchy period of weeks while the team struggled to get his new car ready.

"I had not been in a Formula One car for such a long time," he said, "and I am just so pleased to be able to get back to doing what I enjoy and what gives me a buzz."

Testing has been limited, though Hill's wry assessment sums up the trials and tribulations of a 1997 season that he would prefer to forget. "I have done more laps in testing before the start of this season than I did in the whole of last season. In fact, I've probably done more including the races."

Rejected by Williams after winning the world championship for them in 1996, Hill joined Arrows in a fit of optimism that a team could be

WHO DRIVES FOR WHOM IN 1998

1	Jacques Villeneuve	Canada	Ferrari
2	Michael Schumacher	Germany	Ferrari
3	Damon Hill	Great Britain	Jordan
4	Ralf Schumacher	Germany	Jordan
5	Giancarlo Fisichella	Italy	Benetton
6	Heinz-Harald Frentzen	Germany	Benetton
7	David Coulthard	Britain	McLaren
8	Mika Hakkinen	Finland	McLaren
9	Johnny Herbert	Great Britain	Arrows
10	Luca Badoer	Italy	Arrows
11	Christijan Burchartz	Netherlands	Arrows
12	Paul di Resta	Scotland	Arrows
13	Roberto Benetton	Italy	Benetton
14	Stefano Modena	Italy	Benetton
15	Mark Blundell	Great Britain	Benetton
16	Andrea Montermini	Italy	Benetton
17	Gregor Beyer	Austria	Benetton
18	Christijan Burchartz	Netherlands	Arrows
19	Luca Badoer	Italy	Arrows
20	Roberto Benetton	Italy	Benetton
21	Stefano Modena	Italy	Benetton
22	Mark Blundell	Great Britain	Benetton
23	Andrea Montermini	Italy	Benetton
24	Gregor Beyer	Austria	Benetton

THE 1998 GRANDS PRIX

March 8	Bahrain	Bahrain
April 12	Brazil	Brazil
April 26	Spain	Spain
May 10	France	France
June 7	Canada	Canada
July 12	Great Britain	Great Britain
August 2	Australia	Australia
August 30	Germany	Germany
September 27	Malaysia	Malaysia

built around his experience. Instead, he suffered a wretched year, failing to finish seven times in 17 races, including five of the first six.

This season he is at Jordan, a team where optimism is combined with schoolboy-like enthusiasm and a huge desire for victory, though it could be a while coming, according to Hill. Testing revealed a wide gap in performance between the best, McLaren and Williams, and the Jordan.

"It is difficult enough to win in Formula One even with the best car. You have to be on the pace all the time and it is apparent from testing that we are not yet on the pace. We

might need to find as little as a 2 per cent difference but finding that 2 per cent is like getting blood out of a stone."

The sheer hopelessness of closing the gap last year seemed to knock the fight out of Hill. This year, though, he has been impressed with the ability of Jordan's engineers and a team that has made him feel at home. His arrival at Jordan has certainly lifted the spirits of the team. As Hill fussed around his car in the factory, just outside the Silverstone circuit, one mechanic pointed out: "We have had good drivers in the past but we have a world champion with us now."

### TOMORROW

The armchair guide to the cars and drivers in the new Formula One season

### HOCKEY

## Spice on mission to toughen leagues

By CATHY HARRIS

IN AN attempt to improve the standards of club competition, Chris Spice, the Australian-born performance director of the English Hockey Association (EHA), has put forward structural changes to the men's and women's national leagues. The proposals, if accepted by the clubs, will be implemented in the 1999-2000 season.

The paper recommends three divisions of ten teams with a one-up, one-down promotion system, the premier division also staging an end-of-season play-off to decide the overall league champions. In addition, all premier division clubs will be required to play on water-based, artificial pitches by 2000-01.

Spice is adamant that international players must compete in tougher leagues and feels particularly strongly about players becoming accustomed to the pressures of play-offs. He said: "It will prepare them for tournament situations where the gold medal is at stake, or the chance for Olympic glory. England's best players must learn all about winning matches in these circumstances."

The performance unit of the EHA has also proposed that the top three teams in each premier division and the cup-winners play-off for the Champions' League title. The winners will qualify for the European Club Championship and the side taking the regular-season league title qualify for the European Cup Winners' Cup. Should the same team win both the Champions' League and regular league, the runners-up in the Champions' League qualify for the Cup Winners' Cup.

For the clubs battling to avoid relegation, such as premier division Trojans and Sunderland, in the first division, the proposed changes may be one year too late to save them. Time has already run out for Blueharts, who return to regional competition next season.

Lili James, ever present during the Hertsfordshire Cup, described the experience as "hard work but most enjoyable". She said: "We've all forgotten when we last won a match. In the end it was a combination of bad luck, lack of commitment and the more experienced players getting older. But we're all determined to return and hopefully the new structure will work in our favour."

## England caught napping

England..... 4  
New Zealand..... 5

FROM SYDNEY PRESSIN IN IPOH, MALAYSIA

ENGLAND, as Barry Dancer, the coach, admitted, paid the price for experimenting yesterday and lost to New Zealand, beaten in their three previous games, in the Sultan Adnan Shah tournament here. New Zealand capitalised on England's mistakes, racing to a 3-0 lead after only 11 minutes and staying in front, despite a gallant recovery.

Mason gave way to Lewis in goal for England and Wyatt, one of the rainstays in the defence, was missing for 13 minutes. By then the damage had been done. Tamershaw converted a short corner in the second minute and scored again three minutes later. Radovonich added the third goal for New Zealand.

Wyatt was then brought on and England found their rhythm, Lee, a substitute forward, converting two short corners. Robinson converted a short corner in the 42nd minute for New Zealand and, although England retaliated with a goal by Wyatt, a mix-up in defence left Robinson with an open goal to make the score 5-3. Garcia's goal in the 69th minute came all too late. England's final match in the round-robin series is against Malaysia today.

Germany moved to the top of the table with a 5-3 victory over Australia after trailing 3-1 at half-time.

ENGLAND: J Lewis, B Gerard, J Hills, W Waugh (capt), A Humphrey, Kate Fisher, J Pickett, N Thompson, C Mayes, R Gernon, M Peart, S. Williams, M. Wyatt, B. Mason, J. Lee, M. Kocher.

United pro  
discarding  
ambling

Diatt appointed  
alt Yeovil slid

BOWLS  
ton and Steele  
going strong

THE TIMES THE SUNDAYTIMES

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FOOTBALL: ENGLISH CHAMPIONS SHOW IRON DISCIPLINE IN PURSUIT OF EUROPEAN GOAL

United profit by discarding old gambling habits

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THOSE who know Alex Ferguson well confirmed that he appeared uncommonly content yesterday. As the Manchester United manager and his team made the enchanting coastal journey from their hotel in Beaulieu-sur-Mer along the seafloor...

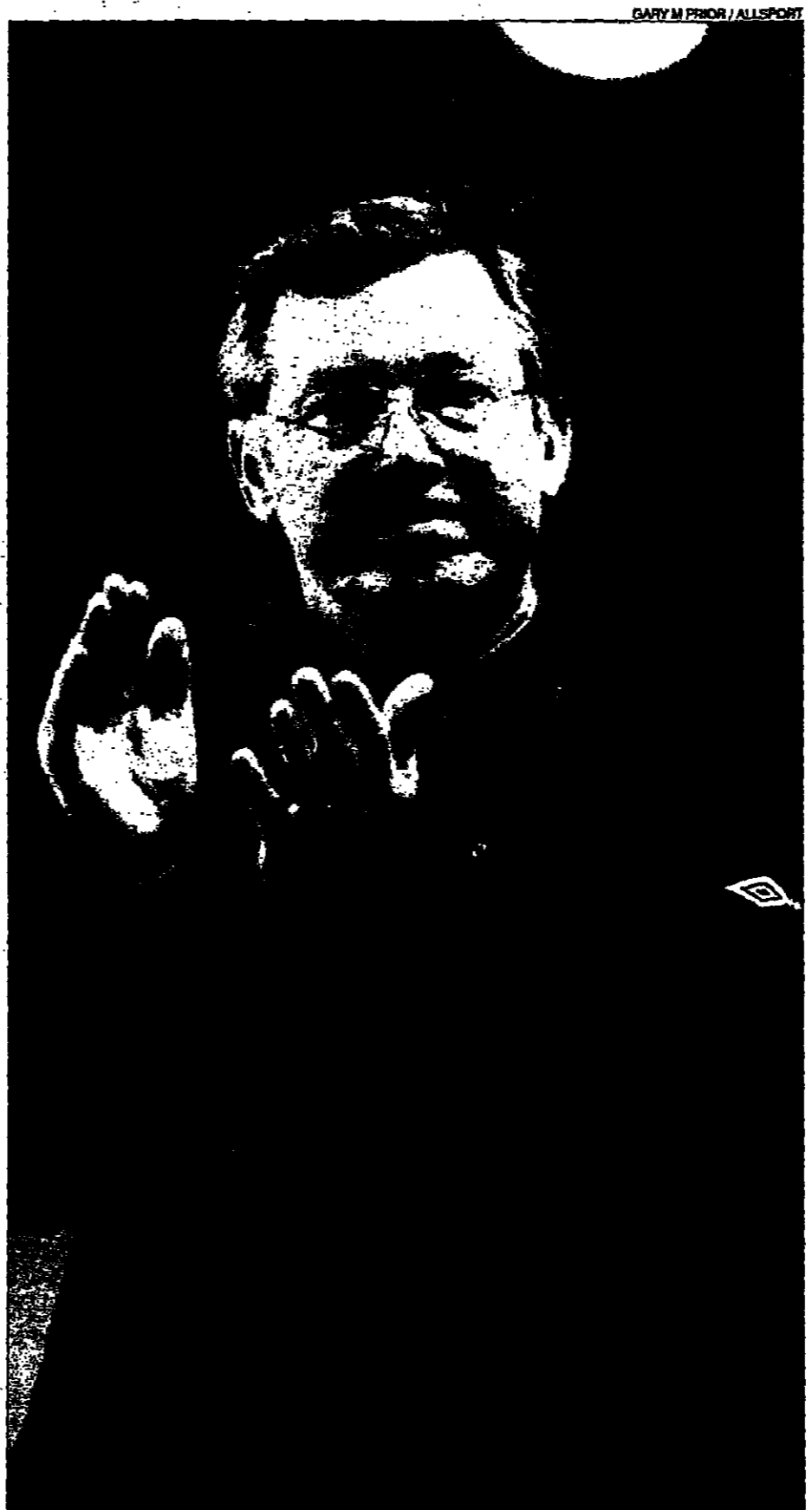
Several hundred ticketless Manchester United fans were let into the match against AS Monaco because police feared a crush. They were admitted just before kick-off as a large crowd built up outside.

clever. As soon as you put one man too many up front, they break and steal the game. Now we have to show them we can play that way, too. I know it is boring but we did not come to Monaco with any obligation to entertain. We have learnt from our mistakes.

To counteract those ill tidings, though, Ferguson admitted that he and his staff had not yet given up hope that Ryan Giggs, absent on Wednesday night with a torn hamstring, might be available for the second leg.

The presence of Giggs would surely tilt the balance of the tie even more towards United. His penetration and his guile would do much to unbalance a Monaco team which may also be strengthened by the return of David Trezeguet in attack and cannot yet be discounted because of their ability on the break.

"I can't help thinking that we could have pushed a bit harder in the second half," Ferguson said. "But we could not take any risks because of their goalkeeping record at home. We will be a different team at Old Trafford."



Ferguson applauds the club's travelling supporters for their backing in Monaco

Musical chairs at Bramall Lane

BY RICHARD HOBSON

ANOTHER day of confusion at Sheffield United yesterday ended with the possibility that Nigel Spackman will return as manager after resigning the post on Monday evening. It is unlikely, however, that he will be reappointed before the FA Cup quarter-final tie away to Coventry City tomorrow.

Green has suggested that Spackman is regretting his decision to resign. "We did not want him to go," he said. In contrast, McDonald told journalists on Tuesday that he harboured reservations about appointing Spackman to a first managerial job nine months ago.

McDonald also stepped down as a director, but stays as chairman of Sheffield United plc. He was unhappy at the hostile reception he received during the game against Ipswich Town on Tuesday evening. It is tempting to think that the way it being cleared for Spackman to return on his terms.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Banned coach is to take advice

BASKETBALL: Laszlo Nemeth is seeking legal advice after his suspension yesterday from coaching duties with the England men's and women's teams. "Beyond that I have no comment," he said. The English Basketball Association imposed the ban over a statement issued by Nemeth at the weekend, criticising both the EBBA and Steve Catton, its chief executive, after events on the trip to Austria and Belarus last week. Peter Knowles, the EBBA chairman, said: "The executive board will consider the circumstances surrounding Dr Nemeth's statement and his future employment with the EBBA on March 14."

Troubled Tueti

RUGBY UNION: Bristol Rugby Club have suspended Dave Tueti, their Tonga international wing, on full pay. The 24-year-old player, who is on the transfer list, will be unable to train or play for the club. Bristol are refusing to disclose the reasons for their decision to suspend Tueti, but say it concerns a possible breach of contract. A disciplinary hearing is being arranged for early next week.

Read on move

CRICKET: Nottinghamshire have completed the signing of Chris Read, the England A wicketkeeper, on a two-year contract. He became available as a list two registration after Gloucestershire withdrew their offer of a contract. Read, 19, had not made a first-class appearance until the recent A tour of Sri Lanka.

FIXTURES

Table listing football, rugby league, and rugby union fixtures for the week of March 6-12, 1998.

Lippiatt appointed to halt Yeovil slide

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMAGE

YEOVIL TOWN yesterday announced that Colin Lippiatt, the caretaker-manager since the departure of Graham Roberts three weeks ago, will continue in his role as coach in a new setup that will bring the eventual appointment of a director of football and an assistant coach.

Lippiatt, who combined successfully as coach to Jeff Chapple at Woking, is not under contract and will work with Terry Cotton, the assistant manager, and Colin Fielder until the new appointments are made.

where Roberts has been given the job of player-manager. "We've got four matches in ten days coming up, which include playing Stalybridge Celtic and Telford United, who are in the bottom three. We have to make sure we are safely above the relegation zone," Fry said. In the upheaval of Roberts' departure, Yeovil have lost their past four matches.

Browne is in charge for the next two matches. Chesham are one place off the foot of the Ryman League premier division. "We've got to survive in the Ryman premier and move on," Pembroke said. "You don't get people of Graham's calibre coming on the market too often. He is one of the five non-league managers I'd say who can take a club on. I can't really believe it and I'm absolutely delighted."

Board tackles foul play head-on

Rob Hughes on moves to eliminate the illegal challenge from behind

Football referees, the most-pilloried species in an ever-faster moving game, will listen attentively to the word from Paris this lunchtime. By then the International Football Association Board, the sole arbitrator of the laws, will have deliberated for two hours on matters to enforce the rules, but also ways to give the referee a hand.

The board, which comprises the four British associations and four representatives of Fifa, the world governing authority, will have one paramount duty: to reinforce the ban on tackles from behind. Fifa now has scientific evidence, compiled from its own medical research among 588 injured players in three countries, that 60 per cent of injuries to ankles result from tackles from behind.

At each World Cup, and the forthcoming one in France will be no different, referees are charged with strict enforcement against this debilitating foul. Yet still it proliferates, and still the referees are found wanting in policing it. This very week referees from Mali and Uganda were dropped from the list of 32 World Cup finals referees after the African Nations' Championship.

Their negligence must have been gross. For in the final itself, Said Belgota, a Moroccan referee, abjectly ignored Fifa's dictat. In the third minute, the South Africa right back, Rabulini, blatantly tackled through the heels of Egypt's fine centre forward, Hoassam Hassan, and got away without a card. In the 44th minute, Lucas Radebe, of Leeds United, tackled so high that his boot landed in the ribcage of an opponent. Radebe escaped with a yellow card.

Humiliation is not nice, but both Fifa and Uefa reinforced the message when Sandro Puhl, the showpiece referee given both the 1994 World Cup Final and the final of Euro 96, was suspended from Uefa tournaments for the rest of this season and omitted from the World Cup list after he failed to punish Paul Bosvelt, of Feyenoord, for the tackle that put Denis Irwin out for two months this winter.

If Blatter has learnt one thing from the players, past and present, that he mixes with, it is that protection from thuggery has their blessing. The international board today surely has no excuse to shy away from reinforcing the hard line against referees who abdicate this responsibility, or who fail to spot cynical foul play.

A related topic — the use of stretchers to carry injured players from the field — will further exercise the minds of the board, and it is within their remit to end the face of so-called wounded individuals being carried to the touchline, where, by a magic as old as the wet sponge, they leap to their feet, fit and healthy.

The fitness of referees is becoming less open to abuse. Uefa's doctors recently concluded that nine out of ten top-class referees registered in their "optimal fitness" category, and Dr Kenneth Cooper, whose treadmill test has been used for years to examine referees, ran a course in Dallas, where referees from Europe, Asia and the Americas so exceeded his demands that he had to call them off the running machine.

BOWLS

Barton and Steele are going strong

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

WHILE Katherine Hawes, 27, continued to advance the cause of the younger generation in the English women's indoor fours championships at Potters Leisure Resort, near Great Yarmouth, yesterday, two formidable veterans skipped their quartets into the semi-finals today.

It is not necessary to reveal Barton's age; sufficient to reveal that she and her husband, George, have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Seventeen years have elapsed since she and the twins won the title, with Barbara Alvey. Ann Green, Betty Crisp and Lucy Brownlie helped Steele win the title in 1991, replaced when Ann Ward has since Green at lead. Barton and Steele, two of the best skips around, have also, incidentally, won the English indoor singles championship.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan warrior aims to save northern soul

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PLANS to stage at Watford one of the matches in the proposed autumn series between Great Britain and New Zealand were criticised yesterday by David Whelan, the chairman of Wigan Athletic, who is building a 25,000-capacity stadium for the football club and Wigan Warriors, where he hopes to complete a £2 million takeover tomorrow.

Whelan wants Wigan's status as a venue for international matches restored. Central Park, which the club is due to leave after the 1999 season, last staged an international match in the 1995 World Cup. "Playing tests in Watford seems crazy to me," Whelan said. "They should be playing them in traditional rugby league areas." In its present condition, Central Park might be frowned on, but Whelan's new £30 million stadium, due for completion in September 1999, will give rugby league its most modern facilities.

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker enters the World Cup reckoning

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

JOHN WHITAKER, whose hopes of qualifying for the final of the Volvo Show-jumping World Cup in Helsinki next month were boosted by his second place in Bologna last week, will attempt to repeat that form in the Paris qualifier at the Palais Omnisports this weekend.

The field will include Hugo Simon, of Austria, the holder of the World Cup, Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, the winner in 1993, and the Frenchman, Xavier Caumont. Britain are represented by Whitaker, Geoff Billington and Nick Skelton. Whitaker had only two minor placings in the pre-Christmas qualifiers, but his performance in Bologna on Virtual Village Heyman, lifted him from joint 50th to 29th place in the European League — from which the top 19 qualify for the World Cup final. One more good result from the three remaining qualifiers should secure his place.

SNOW REPORTS

Table providing snow reports for various locations including Andorra, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, and the United States, detailing depth, conditions, and forecasts.



# Sorry story seen from a different perspective

This was Mary Poppins gone bad," said the defence lawyer Elaine Whitfield-Sharp, trying to explain the resonance for Americans of a British "killer-nanny" on *Dickens* (Channel 4) last night. The pre-publicity meant that Louise Woodward's trial was marked by "an atmosphere of passion, circus and witch-hunt," said the presenter, David Jessel.

Paranoia about child abuse, guilt about using nannies, mistrust of the young and the foreign, American prejudices about the British and British prejudice about Americans: the whole sorry story was churning with symbolic currents and what should have been irrelevant emotions.

In the middle of it all a homesick Cheshire teenager with an "inappropriate" nervous laugh was found guilty of murder after consideration of evidence which, for one, found completely baffling

at the time. So I was grateful for a programme which promised to unravel the issues dispassionately. Woodward's appeal starts today and, if the British public is not properly briefed, it will not be the fault of Channel 4, who followed up Tuesday's thoughtful *Cutting Edge*, on British nannies in America, with this attempt to get at the medical reality of Matthew Eappen's death.

It was curious to hear Woodward talking normally, after her awkward trial evidence and those terrible raking sobbs on hearing the verdict. Trapped among the picturesque clapboard houses of old Massachusetts, she seemed a very ordinary lass, disgusting the dread as she wonders if the future means London University or life in prison.

Under the circumstances, it is difficult to be completely disinterested, and Jessel, a veteran righter of judicial wrongs, couldn't quite

conceal his sympathies. But the programme tried hard and, as a completely ignorant onlooker, I found the conclusions of the panel of independent British medical experts compelling. The American pathologists had simply got it wrong, they said. The likely truth was that Matthew died as a result of a tragic, but commonplace, domestic accident.

Errors of judgment of a less serious nature abounded in the concluding episode of *Mesley* (Channel 4). I have enjoyed this series, but one question among the picturesque clapboard houses of old Massachusetts, she seemed a very ordinary lass, disgusting the dread as she wonders if the future means London University or life in prison.

Under the circumstances, it is difficult to be completely disinterested, and Jessel, a veteran righter of judicial wrongs, couldn't quite



Paul Hoggart

say, Sylvester Gatsanov or fairlight and manly like Dirk Benzberg. But Cakes? Imagine the billboard: "Newman is Hudd!" "Schwarzenegger is the Terminator!" "Cake is a Sweet Spongy Substance!"

It also puzzled me that they had made him up to look like George Orwell, Mesley's polar opposite among patriotic champions of the common man. Then a colleague pointed out that he really looked

like Russ Abbot, and everything started to fall into place.

The series did genuinely try to be serious from time to time, but inside this tale of a dangerous Jew-hating loony, there was a jolly, warm-hearted sitcom bursting to get out. Cakes's face was alive and flickering with merry mischief.

Even when he was leaving lovingly over his dying wife to the muted strains of Wagner, I was waiting for the gags to pop out.

According to Marks and Gran's script, Mesley's attitude to Jews was completely split. Occasionally he menacingly denounced the international Zionist conspiracy, but most of the time he was falling over himself to deny anti-Semitism. He shared this philanthropic trait with Mussolini, so they got on like a Reichstag on fire.

There were so many comforting features. Nobody in the East End had torn or dirty clothes, for example, which was nice. Perhaps

the costumes department had no dry-cleaning budget. And lots of characters had jolly, funny names, such as poor old cuckoo "Fruity" Metcalf, who had to let his wife go to France so that Oswald could "keep his pecker up".

Another was "Puzzi", a comically enthusiastic Nazi, who boasted that "The Führer has little time for parties! Is that why he's had them all banned?" quipped either Diana or Unity. Boon boom! When we met Hitler himself, he looked disconcertingly like Herr Flick from *Alla, Alla, Mosley* was very rude to him, just in case we got the wrong idea, and told him to "mind his own business". But this was the man who politely marched his black-shirts out of the East End when asked to do so by the police, and who later turned out to be a pacifist who had gone into politics so that there could never be another war.

Windsor Davies, as Lloyd George, sounded just as he did in *It Ain't Half Hot Mam*. In a twist reminiscent of *Rising Damp*, Rigby, sorry Mosley, was interred with a black man, but of course was really helpful to him.

Clearly we were all stilly old pussycats who fell into bad company. This was Mad Brooke's *Springtime for Hitler* made flesh, and look forward to sequels — *Genghis Khan Behaving Badly*, or *Carry on Vad the Impaler*.

There were a few moments of farce and melodrama during the second episode of *Real Women* (BBC1) when the real actress looked as if they might just get their vaguely plausible women airborne. It might have been the lugubrious mood music, the patchy dialogue or the short, undeveloped scenes, but somehow it still hasn't happened. With one episode left, I fear it is too late.

**BBC1**

6.00am Business Breakfast (57693)  
 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (64457)  
 8.00 Style Challenge (496995)  
 9.25 Change That (7941870)  
 9.50 Killory (1) (2337254)  
 10.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (9623231)  
 10.30 The Really Useful Show (1) (1057273)  
 11.30 Real Roads (1) (1548933)  
 12.00 News (1) and weather (8981693)  
 12.30pm Call My Bluff (5449148)  
 12.55 Wipeout (2374032)  
 1.00 News (1) and weather (37544)  
 1.30 Regional News (1) (5405402)  
 1.40 The Weather Show (66342631)  
 1.45 Neighbours (1) (72214902)  
 2.10 Ironside (1) (849001)  
 3.00 Lion Country Craftsman Bill Tilley restores an antique Italian table to Lady Balfour's exacting standards (9612)  
 3.30 Wiggly Park (2620011) 3.35 Playdays  
 3.40 The Little Bear Show (1) (1071322) 4.05 Donnie the Menace (1) (109032) 4.30 L & K Friday (5104760) 4.55 Newsround UK: The increasing problem of obesity in the young (1) (896070) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (556371)

**BBC2**

6.10am Lifestyles, Work and the Family (42733)  
 7.00 Sixty Six Hour Breakfast News (1) and signing (7210017)  
 7.15 Teletubbies (1) (5320761) 7.40 The Weekly Races (1) (6252235) 8.00 The Really Wild Show (1) (7712062) 8.25 William's Wish Wellingtons (1) (3242815) 8.35 Johnson and Friends (1) (5792932) 8.45 The Cat (1) (635931) 9.10 Mads Madsen (7529438) 9.30 Watch (5142438) 9.45 Come Outside (9130693) 10.00 Teletubbies (1) (87438) 10.30 Look and Read (842693) 10.50 Geography Programme (1) (844847) 11.10 Landmarks (1) (757902) 11.30 English File (6877) 12.00 Scene 2 (28238) 12.30 News Working Lunch (9148) 1.00 Funnies (1) (24934631) 1.05 Bananaman (1) (24933902) 1.10 The Leisure Hour (7845419) 2.10 Westminster Special (2281544) 2.48 News (1) (842782) 2.45 Killing and Screaming (1) (1452512) 3.25 News (1) (911983) 3.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? (877)  
 4.00 Through the Keyhole (1) (1) (4130631) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (4100490) 4.55 Esther: One Night Stand (6200512) 5.30 Today's the Day (148)  
 6.00 The Simpsons (1) (1) (844148)  
 6.25 Robot Wars (832167)  
 6.55 Electric Blue (1) (808235)  
 7.10 Time Witness: Remember: Aberdeen Eyewitness accounts and archive footage of the Aberdeen disaster (1) (223815)  
 8.00 Weather: Chalk Paths, a Medieval Toilet, Janet Street-Porter walks along the South Downs Way, accompanied by Hala and Poca and Troggs singer Reg Presley (1) (8983)  
 8.30 Gardeners' World: A Sussex willoverflower, a nursery of tasty plants on the frost-bitten Pyneline moors (1) (7400)

**HTV**

6.00am GMTV (4073438)  
 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (1) (5941790)  
 9.55 Regional News (1) (5309235)  
 10.00 The Time, The Place (1) (84964)  
 10.30 This Morning (1) (4185802)  
 12.20pm Regional News (1) (888778)  
 12.30 News (1) and weather (2300457)  
 12.55 Wish You Were Here? (1) (1) (2385148)  
 1.25 Home and Away (1) (9474322) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (9513438) 2.50 WALES: Your Century: Barry (1) (9577963) 2.50 Kidulal (8977963)  
 3.30 News (1) (1916438)  
 3.35 Regional News (1) (1915705)  
 3.30 Roosa and Jim (8937457) 3.40 Tinbuckles (4220235) 3.50 Tom and Vicky (Harcourts) (1) (1347703) 4.40 Gladiators: Train to Win (1) (9017893)  
 5.10 A Country Practice (2189070)  
 5.40 News (1) and weather (619772)  
 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (864902)  
 6.25 Regional Weather (582167)  
 6.30 Regional News (1) (167)  
 7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (1) (6761)  
 7.30 Coronation Street: Toyah and Leslene go on the rampage at Fimmers (1) (821)  
 8.00 Airline: Real-life documentary series following a summer with the passengers and staff at Britannia Airways (1) (2709)

**CENTRAL**

As HTV West except:  
 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (2385148)  
 1.50 Wish You Were Here? (72297235)  
 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2169070)  
 6.25-7.00 Central News (633983)  
 10.40 Central Weekend (6287077)  
 12.30 News (1) and weather (2300457)  
 12.55pm Good News (288939)  
 1.15 Pop Down the Pub (499200)  
 1.25 Home and Away (1) (9474322) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (9513438) 2.50 WALES: Your Century: Barry (1) (9577963) 2.50 Kidulal (8977963)  
 3.30 News (1) (1916438)  
 3.35 Regional News (1) (1915705)  
 3.30 Roosa and Jim (8937457) 3.40 Tinbuckles (4220235) 3.50 Tom and Vicky (Harcourts) (1) (1347703) 4.40 Gladiators: Train to Win (1) (9017893)  
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 7.30 Coronation Street: Toyah and Leslene go on the rampage at Fimmers (1) (821)  
 8.00 Airline: Real-life documentary series following a summer with the passengers and staff at Britannia Airways (1) (2709)

**CHANNEL 4**

7.00am The Big Breakfast (27167)  
 9.00 Schools, Off Limits (8959083) 9.25 Schwann, Work (824612) 9.30 Emerald (1) (9137508) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (1) (2612438) 10.02 Lost Animals (8655677)  
 10.10 1786 and After (1) (1542896) 10.30 Mads Madsen (1244411) 10.40 Living Proof (643347) 11.00 The Technology Programme (919198) 11.15 Stage One (1) (9509709)  
 11.30 Springhill (1) (1) (3273) 12.00 Sesame Street (46631) 12.30pm Light Lunch, With Jonathan Ross, David Boddie and Eternel (1) (54525) 1.30 Michelangelo: Animation (54070070) 1.40 The Living Sea: A Caribbean coral reef (72293094)  
 2.10 The Lock (1957), b/w with Robert Beatty. A thriller about a young boy trapped in a bank vault sealed by a time lock. Directed by Gerald Thomas (1) (3720612)  
 3.30pm Time Extra: The medieval village near Worsley on Teesside (8/8) (1) (273)  
 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (760) 4.30 Countdown (1) (8107490) 4.55 Rick Lake (1) (6295793) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (544)  
 6.00 TFI Friday With Chris Evans. The guests include Jerry Springer and Denise Van Outen. Music comes from Shed 7, Robbie Williams and Texas (57235)  
 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (843167)  
 7.55 The Political Slot (467863)  
 8.00 Foramen TV in the last of the series, Father Lionel Farthorpe meets the archaeologists digging for Atlantis (8/8) (1) (3051)  
 8.30 Brookside: Rachel's hard work pays dividends when she earns promotion (1) (2189)  
 9.00 Esther: Joe's kept Secret: Ellen becomes a former girlfriend of Joe's (1) (2780)

**CHANNEL 5**

**CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**  
 Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are: picture: 10.82075 GHz, sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (8505544) 7.00 WorldView (1) (5733728) 7.30 Milkshake! (859425) 7.35 Wirnzi's House (1) (4071728) 8.00 Hawszaco (1) (1100532) 8.30 Disappearing Farm (1) (1758631)  
 9.00 Espresso (1) (5186167) 10.00 Secret Lives (1) (1) (1427326) 10.30 Sunset Beach (1) (5810780) 11.10 Lesza (2605051)  
 12.00 5 News (1) (1716419) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (8677187) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (5720899) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (6676438) 2.00 Beauty and the Beast (4222335) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (8542542)  
 3.30 She's Working Her Way Through College (1952) Musical with Virginia Mayo, Ronald Reagan and Gene Nelson. A dancer tries to make it as a serious actress. Directed by Bruce Humberstone (2688815)  
 5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards from Coln Chocolate (37700544)  
 5.30 Was It Good For You? (1) (7826361)  
 6.00 100 Per Cent (7859544)  
 6.30 Family Affairs (1) (7840898)  
 7.00 5 News (1) (1497493)  
 7.30 Wildlife SOS: Return of the documentary series about a wildlife sanctuary in Leatherhead (1) (783978)



Murray and Grantham (8.30pm)

**8.30 Murray and Grantham (1/3)** A clever lawyer runs rings around Beech (Billy Murray) during the prosecution of a notorious robber, with Hugh Laurie and Leslie Grantham (1) (4544)

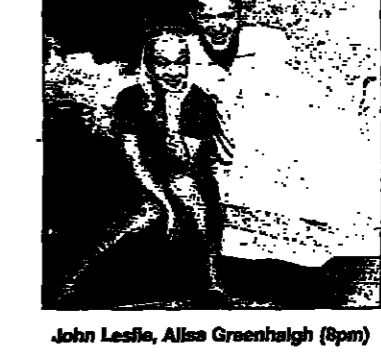
**9.00 The Grand Cafe** Gary faces some unpleasant truths (1) (86778)

**10.00 News at Ten (1)** and weather (18490)  
**10.30 Regional News (772418)**  
**10.40 Cinema** and Greg Larry accuses Edward of cheating during a card game (1) (82571)  
**11.10 Friday Night Fever (1)** (135264)  
**11.40 Rescuers (465544)**  
**12.40pm Pop Down the Pub (6820571)**  
**1.10 Short Story Cinema: Under the Car** The occupants of a car are trapped inside and tormented by an unseen predator (1) (87774)  
**1.40 FTI: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying** — Live! Action from qualifying for the first grand prix of the season (789904)  
**3.15 Not Fade Away: Sandra Bernhard** (465874)  
**4.10 Collins and Macniece's Movie Club (1)** (82574)  
**4.25 TV Nightmares (5389474)**  
**5.00 Coronation Street (1)** (1) (82529)  
**5.30 News (43691)**



Frasier and friends (8.30pm)

**9.30 Frasier** Niles and Daphne get closer than they ever dream (1) (1) (52780)  
**10.00 Frasier** Persepolis: an Christmas Frasier discovers Roz's pregnancy to her unknowing mother (1) (14032)  
**10.30 King of the Hill (1)** (846457)  
**11.05 The Adam and Joe Show** Comedy series presented by Adam Buxton and Joe Cornish (1) (134235)  
**11.35 TFI Friday (1)** (535780)  
**12.40am Pond Life (1)** (1) (3862200)  
**12.55 The Ghost (1933, b/w)** Boris Karloff, in his first British film, stars as an Egyptologist who rises from the dead. Directed by T. Hayes Hurner (1244571)  
**2.20 The Plot Against Harry (1989, b/w)** Martin Priest stars in this comedy about New York Jewish life. Directed by Michael Roemer (1) (3520804)  
**3.45 No Limit (1936, b/w)** A comedy with George Formby, as a chimney sweep. Directed by Marty Banks (8134194)  
**4.55 Alps (1)** (53896194)



John Leslie, Alisa Grant and John Leslie (8pm)

**8.00 Was It Good For You?** John Leslie and Alisa Grant follow three groups of holidaymakers on a trip to Goa (5192001)  
**8.30 Fame and Fortune** Jane Seymour (1) (847998)  
**9.00 Shattered Silence (1992)** with Bonnie Bedelia. Drama about a mother who is killed for trying to deny her husband access to their daughter. Directed by Linda Otto (8056148)  
**10.50 Bring Me the Head of Light** Entertainment (363032)  
**11.20 Girl on a Motorcycle (1968)** with Marianne Faithfull and Alan Delon. An erotic tale of a bored housewife reflecting on the loves of her single days. Directed by Jack Cardiff (301652)  
**1.10am John Osborne's Luther (1974)** Adaptation of Osborne's play about the 18th-century German monk. With Stacy Keach, directed by Guy Green (7838858)  
**3.05 Inland** Directed by Boris Sagal (8659331)  
**4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (5864736)**  
**5.30 100 Per Cent (1)** (5011804)

### SATELLITE AND CABLE

For further listings see Saturday's Vision

**SKY1**

7.00am Start Service (32877) 7.30pm In the Night (673720) 7.45 The Simpsons (7083) 8.15pm Open Heart (8095) 11.00pm Days of Our Lives (4032) 12.00am Movie with Chicks (7759) 12.30am M\*A\*S\*H (2658) 1.00am Sports (9178) 2.00am Jerry Jones (2535) 4.00am Oprah (1934) 5.00am Star Trek: Voyager (517) 6.00am Married with Children (5419) 7.00am The Simpsons (1235) 7.30am Real TV (1037) 12.00am Late Show (8348) 1.00am 100% Polyester: The Legacy (56818) 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5236) 12.00am Late Show (8348) 1.00am 100% Polyester: The Legacy (56818)

**SKY BOX OFFICE**

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels available on any Sky set-top box. Contact 0800 30008.

**SKY BOX OFFICE 1** (Transponder 28) Michael (1988)  
 Jerry Maguire (1989)  
 Sky Box Office 2 (Transponder 58) Sky Atlantic (1988)  
 Sky Box Office 3 (Transponder 58) Sky Atlantic (1988)  
**SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1**

6.00am The Absolute Truth (1988) (2062844) 8.00 Breaking Away (1979) (2062844) 11.30am Jiminy Glick (1988) (43822) 1.30pm The Absolute Truth (1988) (2062844) 2.00am Memories of Me (1988) (43822) 7.00am Jiminy Glick (1988) (43822) 8.00 Moonlight & Valentino (1998) (8165702) (1988) 11.30am Jiminy Glick (1988) (43822) 1.30pm Memories of Me (1988) (43822) 7.00am Jiminy Glick (1988) (43822) 8.00 Moonlight & Valentino (1998) (8165702) (1988) 11.30am Jiminy Glick (1988) (43822) 1.30pm Memories of Me (1988) (43822)

**SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2**

6.00am Nightmares Alley (1947) (1840070) 8.00pm Jiminy Glick (1988) (43822) 1.30pm Memories of Me (1988) (43822) 7.00am Jiminy Glick (1988) (43822) 8.00 Moonlight & Valentino (1998) (8165702) (1988) 11.30am Jiminy Glick (1988) (43822) 1.30pm Memories of Me (1988) (43822)

**SKY SPORTS 3**

12.00pm Tennis World Sport (22300417) 1.00pm Light Lunch (22300417) 2.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 3.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 4.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 5.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 6.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 7.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 8.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 9.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 10.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 11.00pm Soccer Football (22300417) 12.00am Soccer Football (22300417)

**EUROSPORT**

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**TCC**

6.00pm Big Deal (8.30) 8.30am Soccer's Orchestra (7.00) 9.00am Soccer (8.30) 9.30am Soccer (8.30) 10.00am Soccer (8.30) 10.30am Soccer (8.30) 11.00am Soccer (8.30) 11.30am Soccer (8.30) 12.00pm Soccer (8.30) 12.30pm Soccer (8.30) 1.00pm Soccer (8.30) 1.30pm Soccer (8.30) 2.00pm Soccer (8.30) 2.30pm Soccer (8.30) 3.00pm Soccer (8.30) 3.30pm Soccer (8.30) 4.00pm Soccer (8.30) 4.30pm Soccer (8.30) 5.00pm Soccer (8.30) 5.30pm Soccer (8.30) 6.00pm Soccer (8.30) 6.30pm Soccer (8.30) 7.00pm Soccer (8.30) 7.30pm Soccer (8.30) 8.00pm Soccer (8.30) 8.30pm Soccer (8.30) 9.00pm Soccer (8.30) 9.30pm Soccer (8.30) 10.00pm Soccer (8.30) 10.30pm Soccer (8.30) 11.00pm Soccer (8.30) 11.30pm Soccer (8.30) 12.00pm Soccer (8.30) 12.30pm Soccer (8.30) 1.00pm Soccer (8.30) 1.30pm Soccer (8.30) 2.00pm Soccer (8.30) 2.30pm Soccer (8.30) 3.00pm Soccer (8.30) 3.30pm Soccer (8.30) 4.00pm Soccer (8.30) 4.30pm Soccer (8.30) 5.00pm Soccer (8.30) 5.30pm Soccer (8.30) 6.00pm Soccer (8.30) 6.30pm Soccer (8.30) 7.00pm Soccer (8.30) 7.30pm Soccer (8.30) 8.00pm Soccer (8.30) 8.30pm Soccer (8.30) 9.00pm Soccer (8.30) 9.30pm Soccer (8.30) 10.00pm Soccer (8.30) 10.30pm Soccer (8.30) 11.00pm Soccer (8.30) 11.30pm Soccer (8.30) 12.00pm Soccer (8.30) 12.30pm Soccer (8.30) 1.00pm Soccer (8.30) 1.30pm Soccer (8.30) 2.00pm Soccer (8.30) 2.30pm Soccer (8.30) 3.00pm Soccer (8.30) 3.30pm Soccer (8.30) 4.00pm Soccer (8.30) 4.30pm Soccer (8.30) 5.00pm Soccer (8.30) 5.30pm Soccer (8.30) 6.00pm Soccer (8.30) 6.30pm Soccer (8.30) 7.00pm Soccer (8.30) 7.30pm Soccer (8.30) 8.00pm Soccer (8.30) 8.30pm Soccer (8.30) 9.00pm Soccer (8.30) 9.30pm Soccer (8.30) 10.00pm Soccer (8.30) 10.30pm Soccer (8.30) 11.00pm Soccer (8.30) 11.30pm Soccer (8.30) 12.00pm Soccer (8.30) 12.30pm Soccer (8.30) 1.00pm Soccer (8.30) 1.30pm Soccer (8.30) 2.00pm Soccer (8.30) 2.30pm Soccer (8.30) 3.00pm Soccer (8.30) 3.30pm Soccer (8.30) 4.00pm Soccer (8.30) 4.30pm Soccer (8.30) 5.00pm Soccer (8.30) 5.30pm Soccer (8.30) 6.00pm Soccer (8.30) 6.30pm Soccer (8.30) 7.00pm Soccer (8.30) 7.30pm Soccer (8.30) 8.00pm Soccer (8.30) 8.30pm Soccer (8.30) 9.00pm Soccer (8.30) 9.30pm Soccer (8.30) 10.00pm Soccer (8.30) 10.30pm Soccer (8.30) 11.00pm Soccer (8.30) 11.30pm Soccer (8.30) 12.00pm Soccer (8.30) 12.30pm Soccer (8.30) 1.00pm Soccer (8.30) 1.30pm Soccer (8.30) 2.00pm Soccer (8.30) 2.30pm Soccer (8.30) 3.00pm Soccer (8.30) 3.30pm Soccer (8.30) 4.00pm Soccer (8.30) 4.30pm Soccer (8.30) 5.00pm Soccer (8.30) 5.30pm Soccer (8.30) 6.00pm Soccer (8.30) 6.30pm Soccer (8.30) 7.00pm Soccer (8.30) 7.30pm Soccer (8.30) 8.00pm Soccer (8.30) 8.30pm Soccer (8.30) 9.00pm Soccer (8.30) 9.30pm Soccer (8.30) 10.00pm Soccer (8.30) 10.30pm Soccer (8.30) 11.00pm Soccer (8.30) 11.30pm Soccer (8.30) 12.00pm Soccer (8.30) 12.30pm Soccer (8.30) 1.00pm Soccer (8.30) 1.30pm Soccer (8.30) 2.00pm Soccer (8.30) 2.30pm Soccer (8.30) 3.00pm Soccer (8.30) 3.30pm Soccer (8.30) 4.00pm Soccer (8.30) 4.30pm Soccer (8.30) 5.00pm Soccer (8.30) 5.30pm Soccer (8.30) 6.00pm Soccer (8.30) 6.30pm Soccer (8.30) 7.00pm Soccer (8.30) 7.30pm Soccer (8.30) 8.00pm Soccer (8.30) 8.30pm Soccer (8.30) 9.00pm Soccer (8.30) 9.30pm Soccer (8.30) 10.00pm Soccer (8.30) 10.30pm Soccer (8.30) 11.00pm Soccer (8.30) 11.30pm Soccer (8.30) 12.00pm Soccer (8.30) 12.30pm Soccer (8.30) 1.00pm Soccer (8.30) 1.30pm Soccer (8.30)



PARALYMPICS 55

Morris takes her seat for medal quest

SPORT

FRIDAY MARCH 6 1998

GOLF 58

Swede flourishes in desert wind tunnel



Anger at Woodward ultimatum

Clubs draw up plans for war with RFU

By MARK SOUSTER

REPRESENTATIVES of the 12 senior rugby clubs in England gather today in London for what could prove to be a watershed meeting in the recent chequered history of the sport.

The clubs are determined to present a united front in the face of what they perceive as the aggressive and confrontational stance of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) on a range of issues. These include a structured season, the contracting of players to Twickenham and the desire to have English provinces playing in European competition.

Matters have been brought to a head by the "country or club" ultimatum made by Clive Woodward, the England coach, to the England squad on Wednesday. In a statement, English First Division Rugby, the umbrella body of the clubs, said a letter had been sent to Woodward condemning "his apparent bullying of the players to accept his views without reasonable debate or discussion and asking him to withdraw his ultimatum. Failure to do so would lead to an unnecessary hardening of attitudes from the clubs."

Woodward gave warning that players who did not make themselves available to tour would not be selected for the remaining matches in the Five Nations Championship this season. This leaves the real prospect of an England team filled with unfamiliar names taking on Scotland at Murrayfield on March 22.

The matter of the availability of players for tours to the southern hemisphere this summer has brought the wider problems of rugby union to a head and is about to become the issue upon which the future direction of the game in England will rest.

The question is how far the

clubs are prepared to go, or how far legally they are able to, in trying to enforce the withdrawal of players from the England tour of New Zealand, Australia and South Africa this summer.

Some clubs, such as Northampton and Saracens, can legally ban their players from touring while others can only advise them. However, it emerged yesterday that all clubs are anxious to support Keith Barwell, the Northampton owner, in his insistence that his players should not tour because of fatigue. Saracens, Newcastle and Bath are sympathetic and will look to

into a hole. None of the clubs will be refusing to release their players for the rest of the Five Nations. If Clive decides that he won't select them that's his decision, not ours.

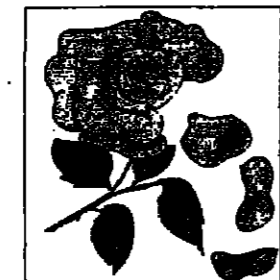
How many players would side with the RFU is also open to question. At the meeting with Woodward on Wednesday, many made it clear that they felt they were being brow-beaten and blackmailed and thought that Woodward had overstepped the mark.

The only player who appears four square behind the union is Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, who was offered a four-year contract worth £1 million last year by the RFU, which is still on the table. However, Wasps, his club, have a one-year option on his contract that ends this season and negotiations between the two are on going.

Rupert Moon, the secretary of the Rugby Union Players' Association, has condemned the ultimatum to the England squad. "The union is playing Russian roulette with the players. It is totally wrong - an insult - that they should have their loyalties questioned. As a union we are here to help any player who feels he needs advice at this time."

Sir John Hall, the owner of Newcastle, said the scene was now set for a "fight for survival". "When you are in a corner you have to fight. The Rugby Football Union is both our regulator and competitor. We are being treated like second class citizens. At the end of the day common sense has to prevail and people will have to negotiate. If we hold our nerve we will get what we want."

The clubs seek some form of autonomy under the RFU umbrella with responsibility for competitions and television rights. The consensus is that talk of a breakaway is not on the agenda and would only play into RFU's hands. However, it is clear that even the most moderate clubs have been angered by what they call the duplicity of the union.



Celtic pride...54 Gaillard's mission...54

persuade their players not to tour, so will Leicester.

Those five clubs provided 20 members of the 26 strong squad against Wales and the announcement yesterday that Richard Hill, the Saracens and England flanker, will have a back operation this weekend and will not play again until next season is a timely reminder of the danger of burn-out.

Barwell said yesterday: "The owners will either back me, in which case go and have a bet on Scotland, or they won't, in which case I'll lose and Fran [Cotton] will win. It's put up or shut up time. Clive [Woodward] has dug himself



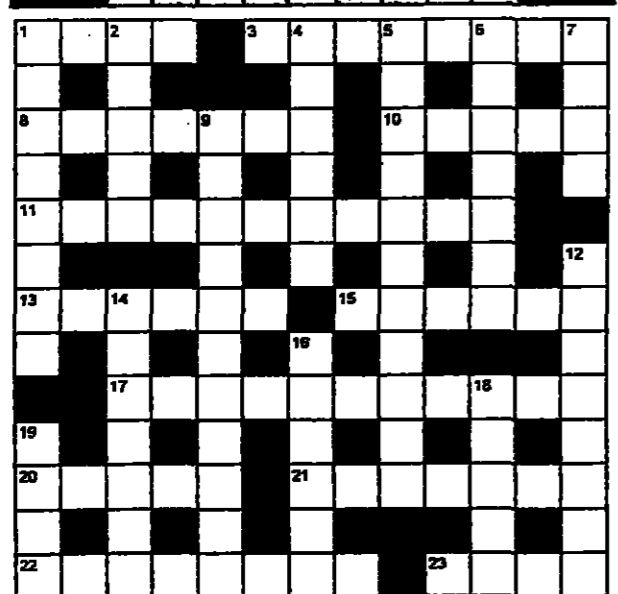
Greg Rusedski drives a forehand during his one-sided victory over Richey Reneberg, of the United States, in the second round of the ATP Tour event in Rotterdam yesterday. Rusedski won 6-3, 6-2 in 45 minutes. Report, page 58

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES



11 pages of sport

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1346

- ACROSS: 1 Part of camel; carry with difficulty (4) 3 Missile; rude criticism (8) 8 Coy mistress poet (7) 10 Take one's ease (5) 11 Tiny time interval (5,4) 13 Culminating point (6) 15 Lurezia - infamous daughter of pope (6) 17 Make vehement protest (4,2,1,4) 20 Odour; gust (5) 21 Place of refuge (7) 22 Much Ado constable (8) 23 Unfree peasant (4) DOWN: 1 Longing to be back (8) 2 Wall painting (5) 4 Deliverance; aid (to poor) (6) 5 Independently confirm (11) 6 Powerful canine breed; type of clip (7) 7 Cab (4) 9 Charge to come in (8,3) 12 Style of type; fairness (anag.) (8) 14 Glimmer of notion (7) 16 Ship's steward (6) 18 Release (knot) (5) 19 (Sum) due (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1345 ACROSS: 1 Double take 8 Exigent 9 Cruet 10 Poem 11 Definite 13 Reflex 15 Bereft 17 Cast-iron 18 Yeti 21 Sauce 22 Troncon 23 Easy does it DOWN: 2 On ice 3 Brew 4 Esteem 5 Archives 6 Elusive 7 Streetwise 8 Empiricist 12 Decibels 14 Fissure 16 Jotted 19 Ennui 20 Cove

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Extra time needed at Wembley

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE rebuilding of Wembley has suffered another hold-up. With only three weeks to go before the deadline for signing the contract to transfer its ownership, negotiations are threatening the timetable for the £260 million stadium.

A meeting this week between the English Sports Council, which is providing £120 million of lottery money, the English National Stadium Trust and the Football Association ended with the agreement still unsigned. The Trust has offered Wembley plc, which owns the site, £90 million in compensation. However, Wembley estimates the value at £120 million. The Football Association is becoming frustrated as it wants to hold the 1999 FA Cup Final at the old Wembley, with work starting that summer in time for the new stadium to be opened for 2002 FA Cup Final. The new Wembley is the cornerstone of England's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup.

An FA spokesman yesterday dismissed reports that the governing body was looking at a site near King's Cross as an alternative for football internationals. He said: "We are committed to Wembley and other stories are speculation."

However, this latest hold-up could delay the appointment of architects for the new Wembley, which was scheduled for this spring but cannot proceed until the agreement with Wembley plc is signed. A further delay has been caused by Brent council asking for £30 million in "planning gain" to help with improving transport links in the area. Brent regards the original £15 million as too low.

Are you all right there in the back

By KEVIN EASON

IT WILL be the ultimate joyride, a 300mph trip usually reserved for the elite drivers of the grand-prix circuit but one now made possible by McLaren, who yesterday unveiled the first modern two-seater Formula One car, developed from the model that David Coulthard drove to two victories last year.

Then, he was alone in his silver-and-black machine. Later this year, in the new McLaren MP4 98T, he will be able to chat over the radio to a passenger squeezed in behind him. The car is the brainchild of Ron Dennis, McLaren's managing director, who wanted to offer to the public the experience of Formula One racing without actually having to drive the car.

He instructed McLaren's road car division to extend the cockpit of the 1997 model to produce a twin-seater which has almost the same dimensions as the single-seater, but in which the driver sits in his normal position while the

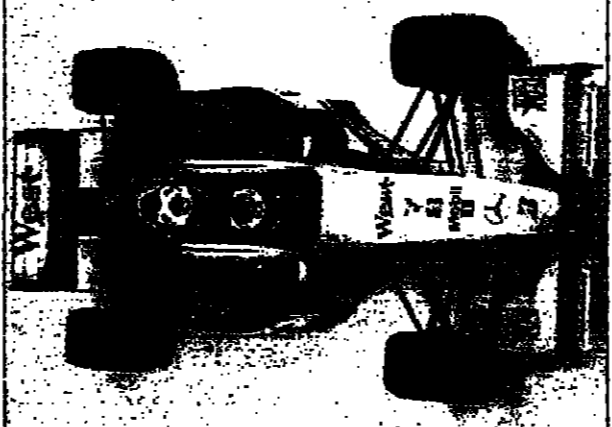
passenger squashes in behind, legs splayed.

Everything else is the same as in the genuine Formula One car, from the 700 brake horsepower Mercedes V10 engine to the safety cell that protects drivers in the event of an accident.

Coulthard had no idea the car, which could be ready for the San Marino Grand Prix in late April, was in production and only saw a scale model for the first time yesterday before he went to the Melbourne circuit to prepare for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix.

"It is incredible," he said. "I hope I get to choose the passengers so I can give them the full flavour of what it is like."

One newspaper journalist and one from the specialist motoring press will take part in the inaugural runs. Who gets the chance will depend on how much their editors are prepared to pledge to charities supported by McLaren and their engine suppliers.



McLaren's new two-seater has been built to thrill

Harkness denies race taunt

By KEVIN EASON

STEVE HARKNESS, the Liverpool player, yesterday defended himself against claims that he had racially abused Stan Collymore, of Aston Villa, during a match between the clubs last Saturday (David Maddock writes).

Collymore had made a very public protest that he was abused by Harkness; the Liverpool defender replied in a statement yesterday. "I vehemently deny the accusation that I made racist remarks to Stan Collymore. Contrary to reports I did not attempt to enter the dressing-room at Villa Park and was not involved in any scuffle," he said.

"The particular background to the game may have meant more was going on than usual, but it did not extend to racial abuse of any kind. I'm not a racist. I'm proud to have Paul Ince and his family among my best friends, and among the people who I spend a lot of time with."

While Collymore has been given the support of John Gregory, his manager, Harkness was yesterday accorded the full backing of officials from Liverpool.

The club said that it would back the player's defence to the full and added that it had asked Brendan Batson, of the Professional Footballers Association, to mediate in the dispute between the players. In a statement the club said it believed Batson had already spoken to the players and added: "We are proud of the contribution of our black players at this club."

Privately, Liverpool will point to a continuing disagreement between Collymore and Liverpool since he left the club last summer as a possible factor in the dispute.

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